Hafa Adai!

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REMAKING GARAPAN

'Major facelift needed'

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

First part of a series

For an area that's considered Saipan's central business district and a hub for tourists, Garapan looks derelict.

It is a place that has a lot potential to represent what the Marianas is all about—optimistic, bustling, vibrant, and rich in culture—but now appears like a has-been, with a few pretty spots and lots of aging infrastructure.

Paseo de Marianas, which residents and tourists frequent, stands in the middle of Garapan. BEA CABRERA

But now help is finally underway.

With the creation of the Office of Planning and Development under the Office of the Governor and the appointment of former Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Chris Concepcion as its deputy director, a team called the Garapan Revitalization Task Force will soon be taking the lead in transforming Garapan.

See MAJOR on Page 4

Question if Casha is part of IPI up in the air

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Casino Commission is going through the language of the casino law to see whether Imperial Casha's integrated resort rooms that Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC is planning to build with American Sinopan LLC in Tanapag will

See CASHA on Page 4

'Workforce challenges' brought up with codel

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Workforce challenges and Super Typhoon Yutu recovery remain the largest issue in the CNMI, according to the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, which raised these points with the congressional staff delegation during their brief information-collecting trip to the CNMI.

See WORKFORCE on Page 4

'YOU CAN'T JUST NOT GO'

Life in public-shooting-era

By TED ANTHONY
AP NATIONAL WRITER

Ohio: A bar district where friends gathered for drinks on a warm Saturday night. Texas: A Walmart stocked with supplies for back-to-school shopping on an August morning. California: A family-focused festival that celebrates garlic, the local cash crop.

Two consecutive summer weekends. Less than seven days. More than 30 fellow human beings gone in moments, in public places exactly like those where huge swaths of the American population go without a second thought.

Or perhaps not. Perhaps no longer. Have we crossed into an era of second, third, even fourth thoughts?

"I don't like to go out, especially without my husband. It's really

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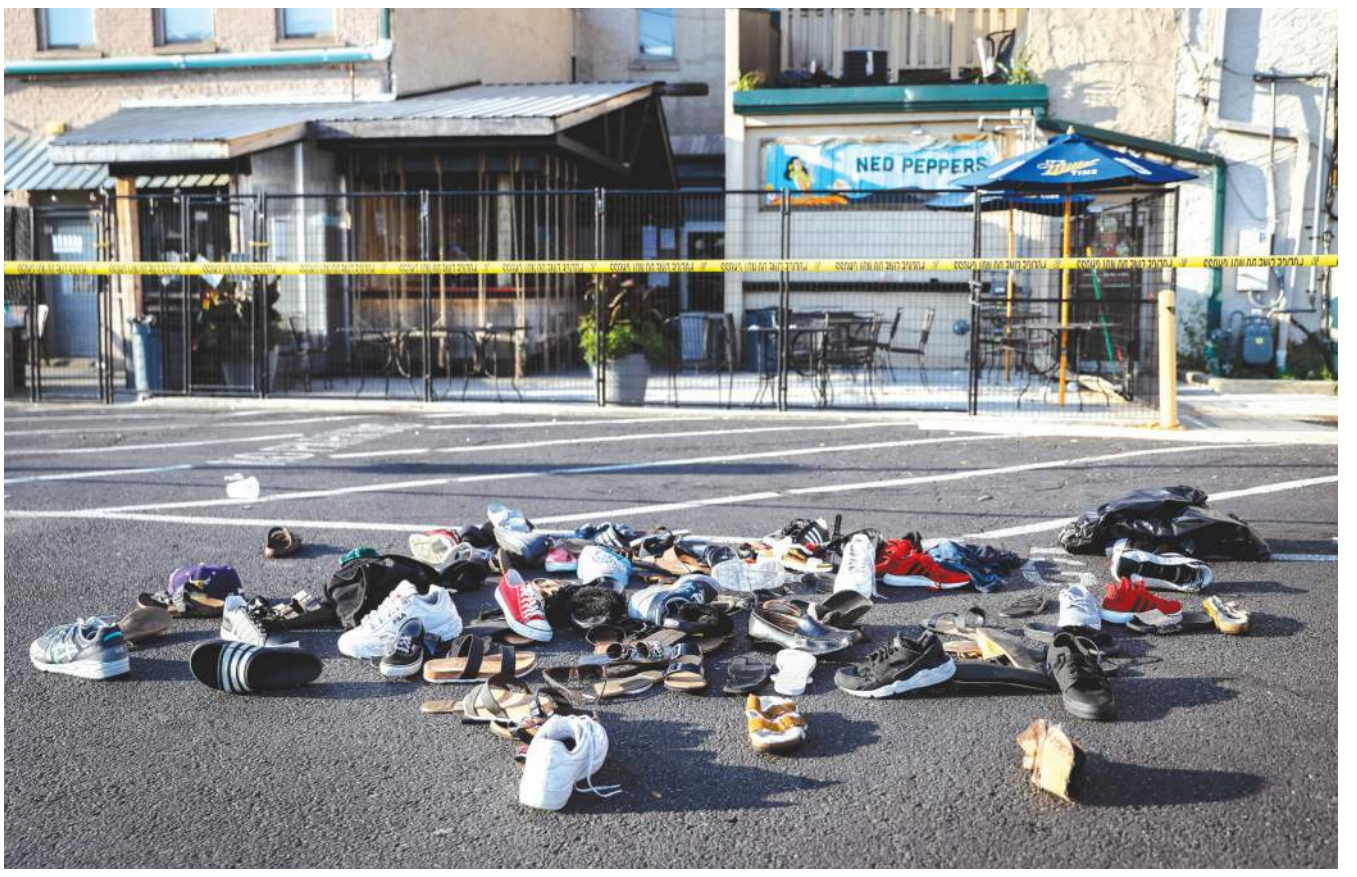
- Attack on Texas shoppers to be handled as domestic terrorism. **PAGE 14**
- Shooting victims include a mom who died protecting her baby. **PAGE 17**



Shoes are piled outside the scene of a mass shooting including Ned Peppers bar, Sunday, Aug. 4, 2019, in Dayton, Ohio. AP

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Local

DOJ: Four CUC key management positions unfilled

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Four key management positions at the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. have remain unfilled since November 2018 and last February, according to the U.S. Department of Justice.

Those unfilled positions are for chief engineer, water and wastewater division manager, wastewater treatment plant supervisor, and technical manager for oil.

Acting CUC executive director William Gilmore told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that CUC expects to fill the four positions no later than next week.

Gilmore said that filling the four positions has taken longer than expected, with candidates withdrawing due to better offers from competing interests, or candidates who are found not suitable for the positions because they either do not meet CUC's requirements nor offer skills that meet CUC's expectations.

In the U.S. government's August 2019 status report filed in federal court last Thursday, Bradley R. O'Brien, senior lawyer at the DOJ Environment and Natural Resources Division Environmental Enforcement Section, said it continues to be critical that positions be filled by persons who meet the Stipulated Order 1 qualifications.

SO1 focuses on drinking water and wastewater and the restructuring of CUC's organization.

O'Brien said CUC has historically sustained lengthy vacancies in management positions, thus impeding CUC's operations and compliance with the federal court orders.

Bradley

Gilmore

The chief engineer position has been vacant since Nov. 2, 2018, when Song Kim resigned for personal matters, while the water and wastewater division manager, previously held by Gary Byrd, has been vacant since Nov. 2, 2018, when he resigned to accept an off-island job.

The wastewater treatment plant supervisor position has been vacant since Feb. 3, 2019, when Richard Wasser left for an off-island job.

The technical manager for oil post has been unfilled since Feb. 13, 2019, when Maximino Simian resigned to accept an off-island job offer.

There is positive news, though.

Gilmore said the chief engineer and wastewater treatment plant supervisor posts should be under contract by the end of this week.

He disclosed that the drinking water and wastewater manager is to be interviewed, following vetting by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency this week, with a possible contract signing by the end of next week.

Gilmore said the technical manager position for oil had three candidates and one has withdrawn.

He said they completed the first interview yesterday, and will complete the other tomorrow, Wednesday.

"A decision should be made shortly thereafter for the hire," Gilmore said.

Pertaining to CUC's financial future, O'Brien disclosed that since the entry of the court-stipulated orders in March 2009 through July 2019, CUC will have received more than $107 million from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of the Interior ($102 million) and CNMI government ($5 million) for Stipulated Orders 1 and 2.

Stipulated Order 2 refers to court-mandated CUC projects that focus on oil issues and also apply to oil spills and the remediation of the contaminated power plants.

'Prayer is no longer enough'

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Back-to-back mass shootings in the U.S. mainland have claimed the lives of over 30 innocent civilians in a span of eight days—a shocking number that has prompted Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) to support "common sense" measures to counter unremitting gun violence.

Four people were killed, including the gunman, and 15 were injured at the Gilroy Garlic Festival in Northern California shooting last July 29, 2019. This was followed by the Walmart El Paso, Texas shooting, the deadliest shooting of 2019, which killed 20 people and wounded 26 others last Aug. 4, 2019. That same day, the Dayton Ohio shooting killed 9 and injured 27.

"Tragically, data show that each day 91 people in America are killed by guns," Sablan noted in a statement to *Saipan Tribune*. "Too many families in too many communities have been forced to endure the daily horror of gun violence. Too many families in our nation bear the stories of loved ones [lost] to gun violence. Enough already."

Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* that he joins his colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to insist on "commonsense steps to keep our families and our communities safe."

"I mourn the unnecessary killings whether in Colorado, Texas, Ohio, Virginia or California. May it be a comfort to those grieving the loss of their loved ones that so many Americans mourn with and pray for them at this very difficult time. But praying is no longer enough. We must act," Sablan said.

"We deserve a nation where people throughout the United States in their homes, their neighborhoods, their places of worship, their shopping malls, movie theaters and their classrooms are free from fear from gun violence," Sablan added.

According to the non-profit organization Gun Violence Archive, there are a total of 33,195 gun violence incidents as of 7pm last night resulting in 8,782 deaths and 17,453 injuries. Two-hundred-and-fifty-five of the 33,195 gun violence incidents are mass shootings, according to the organization.

In a social media post, Rep. Ed Propst (Ind-Saipan) said there have been 2,189 mass shootings since the Sandy Hook massacre in 2012.

In a statement from the Torres administration, acting governor Arnold I. Palacios also mourned the victims of the shootings in El Paso and Dayton by directing yesterday that all U.S. and CNMI flags be lowered to half-staff starting yesterday to sunset of Aug.8, 2019.

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Lallane Guiao
WIC Participant

"My workplace has been extremely supportive. I always have a space and time to pump milk. If that space is being utilized for something, my co-workers are quick to finish up to allow me to use the space or provide me with a different space. Also, sometimes I work in the field, or out of the office. Other offices that I visit are always generous to provide me the space to pump and even allow me to store my breast milk in their office refrigerator until I leave. It's a bonus having super supportive work environments."

WIC CNMI

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider. This project was supported by Grant 7NM700NM5 CFDA 10.557 from USDA and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC). The contents above are solely the responsibility of CHCC and do not necessarily represent the official views of USDA."

'This is the land of the free, not of freebies'

Rep. Janet U. Maratita (R-Saipan) clarified that a proposed resort fee that she is pushing in the Legislature was not crafted to attack resorts and similar establishments but is only her take on revenue generation.

Maratita's House Bill 21-67 seeks to impose a 5% resort fee on the amount charged for accommodations to temporary guests of a room in a hotel; lodging house; motel or resort motel; apartment motel; rooming house; bed and breakfast; condominium; or similar facilities in the CNMI.

"We have to keep up with the rest of the states and islandnations," she told *Saipan Tribune* last Friday, citing Hawaii as an example. "…I know that this bill would [encounter] resistance from hoteliers…and that is understood. However, at this critical time in our Commonwealth, we need some revenue-generating legislation and I think it is time we assess tourists or visitors coming into the Commonwealth."

According to Maratita, the resort fee will help the Marianas Visitors Authority enhance many of the CNMI's tourist sites. She noted the Grotto as an example.

"Some 1,000 tourists visit the Grotto daily. The Grotto is in bad shape—there is fecal matter there and it's contaminated. Where are we going to get this money to improve or solve the issue going on there?" she asked. "…We don't have any fees for any of our historical sites or parks. There are just no fees for visitors. Everything is free. This is the land of the free, not the land of freebies. It's about time we have something in place."

Maratita noted that there is a similar fee imposed on Las Vegas visitors who stay in their resorts. The fee, according to Maratita, is also a state-mandated fee.

However, when asked, Maratita noted that she does not wish to mimic Las Vegas.

In a previous statement from House minority leader Rep. Ed Propst (Ind-Saipan), he noted that if the bill is passed, it would exceed Hawaii's and Guam's taxes on similar business establishments.

He noted that the 15% hotel occupancy tax, the 5% resort fee, and the annual 5% business gross revenue tax would make the CNMI have the highest taxes imposed on hotels and resorts than any other state or territory.

He recommended, instead, to tax the lone Saipan casino, which only pays 5% BGRT annually.

In response, Maratita told him to just submit a separate the bill for this. She added that other members of the House already co-sponsored her bill.

"He is free to do legislation to tax the casino. Nothing is preventing him from doing so. Nothing is preventing me from imposing a resort tax. I just did," she said.

She added that she also previously introduced legislation to tax the casino.

During the 20th Legislature, Maratita sponsored House Bill 20-31, which sought to impose a 5% casino gaming revenue tax. That bill was not entertained. ***(Erwin Encinares)***

US govt seeks order to forfeit $31,960 in birth tourism case

The U.S. Attorney's Office asked the federal court yesterday to issue a final order to forfeit to the U.S. government the $31,960 that was seized from a tourist who was convicted of running an illegal birth tourism business in the CNMI.

Assistant U.S. attorney Eric O'Malley said the order of forfeiture forms part of plea agreement between the U.S. government and Sen Sun.

Sen Sun was sentenced to 12 months and one day in prison after being convicted of running a business that offered trip packages to pregnant Chinese women seeking to give birth on Saipan.

O'Malley said the U.S. government published notice of the forfeiture for 30 days on the U.S. government's official internet website. The notice was published on May 1, 2019, to May 30, 2019.

He said the notice advised any person having or claiming to have a legal interest in the money of their right to file a claim contesting the forfeiture.

O'Malley said no claims on the money were filed within that 30-day period.

On May 23, 2018, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona granted the U.S. government's motion for final order of forfeiture.

Last March, O'Malley moved for order rescinding the final order of forfeiture, saying they inadvertently obtained the order without first obtaining a preliminary order of forfeiture.

O'Malley said the preliminary order of forfeiture is a prerequisite to publish notice, and publication necessary to notify third parties of the government's intent to dispose of the properties.

Manglona granted the motion.

Authorities seized $8,541 from Sun during his arrest on Nov. 3, 2017, and $23,419 more during the search of his home in Gualo Rai on Nov. 9, 2017.

In December 2018, Sun pleaded guilty to harboring illegal aliens.

On May 18, 2018, Sun, also known as Sam Sun, was sentenced in federal court to 12 months and one day in prison. ***(Ferdie De La Torre)***

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LIFE

From Page 1

scary being out by myself," preschool teacher Courtney Grier, 21, said Sunday outside a grocery store in Virginia Beach, Virginia, where a gunman killed 12 in a city building in late May.

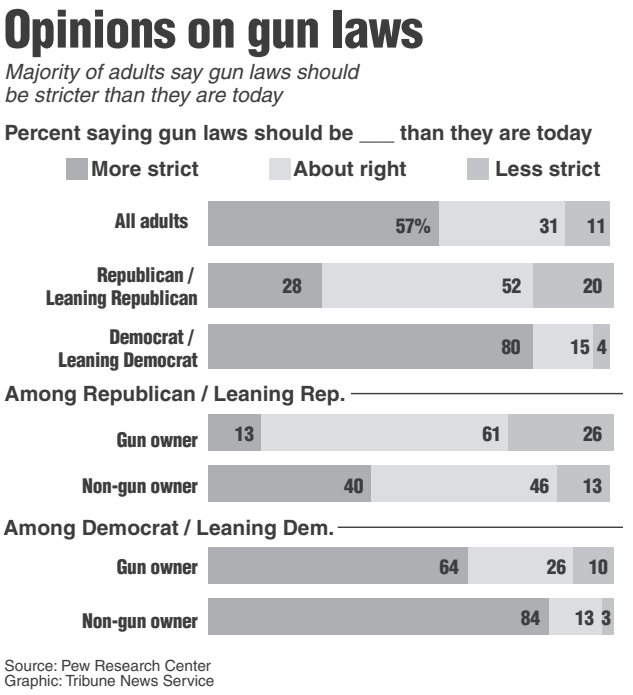
But, Grier says, "You still have to go to the grocery store to get dinner. You can't just not go."

That might be an apt slogan for America, circa 2019: You can't just not go.

Civic life, particularly the public portion of it, has been a foundation of American society since the beginnings. That may have ebbed in today's nose-in-your-device world, but events like festivals, going out for the evening and in particular shopping remain enduring communal activities. Now those three venues have given us lethal and very public shootings in the space of less than a week.

Add other daily-life institutions that have been visited by mass shootings — houses of worship, movie theaters, malls, a newsroom and, of course, schools — and the question becomes more pressing: Are these loud, sudden events starting to fundamentally change America in quiet, incremental ways?

The sites where bullets flew and people fell this past week are not simply places where random people gather publicly and informally. More importantly, if you're an American, they're places like the ones where people like YOU gather publicly and informally — particularly in the summer, when so many are not as hunkered down by weather and obligation.



Source: Pew Research Center
Graphic: Tribune News Service

These aren't only mass shootings (Gilroy, in fact, with three dead other than the shooter, technically isn't a "mass shooting" by some of today's metrics). They are also mass public events that make us deal with something that other places have faced for yearslong stretches: assessing daily life's danger while moving through it with loved ones.

The chances of an American being caught up in a public mass shooting remain incredibly rare. Nevertheless, the sometimes-toxic cocktail of the events themselves, social media echo chambers and the distorting factors of the 24-hour news cycle can be impactful.

El Paso's 20, Dayton's nine and Gilroy's three have caused online outpourings around many questions, some more political than others. But variations of these two keep cropping up: Are regular places safe anymore? Should we assume that they are?

There are, loosely, two types of reactions that sometimes overlap. One is to back off some, to take more precautions. One is to be defiant. That's the approach that retired Marine Richard Ruiz, a Gilroy native, says he's seen in Gilroy in the week since the garlic festival shooting.

"The thing that has changed in Gilroy is our focus," said Ruiz, 42. "No one is showing signs of being worried or fearful in public. We're emboldened. We want to go out more."

In Squirrel Hill, the Pittsburgh neighborhood where a shooter killed 11 people at Tree of Life Synagogue last fall, a commitment to doing exactly that has helped ensure that civic life remains vibrant. There is little visible change except for the "Stronger than Hate" signs in some shop windows that encourage two things — a return to normal life and a commitment to never forgetting.

In Dayton, Nikita Papillon, 23, described the site of the killings that happened across the street from her Saturday night as the kind of location "where you don't have to worry about someone shooting up the place."

But does "that kind of place" exist anymore? And if not, how does that impact American life in ways that defy measurements and metrics?

From Britain, which grappled with a spate of Irish Republican Army attacks from the 1970s through the 1990s, to Afghanistan and Iraq, where public explosions and attacks have been commonplace during the past two decades, the world's citizens have grappled in many ways with balancing regular life and increased vigilance.

In Israel, during the second uprising against the government's long-running military rule over Palestinians, Palestinian militants carried out a series of suicide bombings and shootings in Israel, targeting cafes, malls and public buses. Between 2000 and 2005, many Israeli Jews stopped riding public buses and avoided crowded public spaces. Others fought to maintain normal routines.

Avraham Sela, a professor of international relations at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, says many Israelis became scared to visit public places, though he says that, in the end, Israelis "never allowed our lives to be dictated by those fears."

The United States is hardly at that point. But the conversations that now take place — Should we go? Should we take the kids? What's that noise? — reflect a society that, no matter people's political beliefs, is starting to process what's taking place in its midst.

This year marked two decades since two student gunmen killed 12 schoolmates and a teacher at Columbine High School outside Denver, a watershed moment in mass shootings. Sam Haviland, who was a junior at Columbine in 1999, knows other survivors who are fearful in public places or avoid them completely. After years of post-traumatic stress, she chose a different path.

CASHA

From Page 1

be counted as IPI's.

IPI has entered into a joint venture with American Sinopan by acquiring a 50% ownership in the company, with a plan to build a hotel project called Imperial Casha.

CCC audit manager Charlie O. Atalig said in an interview last week that CCC is interested in getting more information about the Imperial Casha project.

Atalig said a question was raised with CCC chair Juan Sablan at the groundbreaking ceremony for the Imperial Casha project last July 20 whether the rooms of Imperial Casha qualify under the Public Law 18-56 requirement.

P.L. 18-56, which allowed casino gaming on Saipan, requires IPI to build 2,000 new hotel rooms and invest $2 billion.

Atalig said Sablan mentioned that CCC has to double-check the language of the law.

Atalig said there was a misunderstanding where someone may have thought that Sablan's nod to the question was an affirmation that the Imperial Casha's rooms can be credited to IPI.

Atalig said he believes it would not qualify for the reason that the casino license agreement is very specific in that different phases.

"My understanding of the Imperial Casha is that it is sort of condominium type of project," he said.

The audit manager said if condominium qualifies as a guest room, then it is possible that Imperial Casha is counted for the purpose of Public Law 18-56.

MAJOR

From Page 1

"We strongly feel that, after many years of neglect, Garapan is in need a major facelift. …The task force aims to transform Garapan into a premier family-friendly destination, featuring a wide range of shopping, dining, entertainment, civic and commercial uses in a world-class beach resort setting that is attractive for visitors and residents," he said. "The plan envisions Garapan affirming its claim as the center of economic activity and the heart of our tourism industry."

The Garapan Revitalization Plan is not a new idea. According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, past administrations of former governors Pedro P. Tenorio and Juan N. Babauta executed plans and spent millions of dollars to develop Garapan but consistency was evasive due to a variety of factors.

"We've seen time and again that the government is usually short of resources to cover basic needs in the Garapan Core—daily street cleaning, minor repairs of sidewalks and curbs, resurfacing of streets, providing adequate street parking, citing property owners for noncompliance with zoning laws, trimming of trees, grass and shrubs, basic landscaping, repair or replacement of street lights, and more," Concepcion said.

In 2007, the CNMI Zoning Office commissioned the Garapan Revitalization Plan. "It was a great guide but, unfortunately, most of it were never implemented. The plan itself is well-written and almost all of it is still relevant today, with a few minor changes needed, so there is no need to pay for another study to tell us what we already know," he said.

That means Concepcion's office is using the 2007 Zoning Plan as their basic guide and is just updating it.

According to Concepcion, the GRTF today is composed of stakeholders that have direct interest in ensuring that the Garapan Revitalization Plan is a success. He said it is made up of over a dozen business leaders, residents, and government agencies collaborating to alleviate some of the many challenges facing the area.

"The experience in Honolulu and other U.S. jurisdictions taught us that the business community must step in to help the situation when the government is unable to fulfill its mandate," he said.

Speaking at an MVA membership meeting last year, Waikiki Improvement District Association president Rick Egged said it took the effort of an entire community to make Waikiki what is now as a popular destination for travel and leisure. "Waikiki today is the brainchild of the people, business community and the government."

"A planning office is key to tie the pieces together, getting departments to talk to each other and coordinate their activities and having it become a part of a bigger plan," he added.

Citing Waikiki's success, Concepcion said that forming a Special Improvement District to handle the day-to-day maintenance of Garapan is key and this group only supplements the work that the government is legally responsible for and it is able to focus resources on major infrastructure projects.

"That's a critical point: the creation of a Special Improvement District does not absolve the government of their responsibility to provide services for the public. …We are working with the House [of Representatives] to introduce legislation authorizing each senatorial district to create Business Improvement Districts as needed. We are working with our partners in the private sector to create a non-profit entity to form the BID, which will essentially be the governing authority for the Garapan Core," he said.

"That's one important factor—the BID is actually run by a non-profit organization that will be responsible for doing daily maintenance within Garapan Core. It will not be another government agency with more government employees and this is important to note," he added.

WORKFORCE

From Page 1

The congressional delegation was composed of five congressional staff members representing their respective offices in the U.S. Congress. They were here last week to gather information on the CNMI's issues.

Among such meetings with government entities were meetings with organizations, including the Saipan Chamber of Commerce last Thursday, Aug. 1, 2019. All meetings, as *Saipan Tribune* observed, were closed-door meetings.

The Chamber told *Saipan Tribune* in a statement that the general message they conveyed to the delegation was the ongoing workforce challenges that impact the entire economy.

"Businesses are making efforts to hire and train qualified U.S. citizens, but this is a process that takes time in order to stabilize our fluctuating economy. As a community, we have made some progress. However, we still lack the capacity on island, so these are issues we continue to face in the interim as they are trying their best to stay afloat," the Chamber noted in the statement, including how businesses are recovering from late October 2018's Super Typhoon Yutu.

"We asked for their help in expediting the processing of CW-1 renewals to help employers and employees. We also informed them there are some provisions in the [CNMI Workforce Act of 2018] which we need clarification to make sure we are complying with the new statute," the Chamber noted.

As of publication, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has yet to publish new regulations governing the law, which was enacted in late June 2018. It ultimately extended the CW program for the CNMI as well as added more slots starting fiscal year 2020.

With only two months remaining before the start of fiscal year 2020, USCIS has yet to publish the new regulations. The federal agency told *Saipan Tribune* in a previous statement that they have yet to confirm a date for publishing new regulations, which would include major tweaks to the CW visa based on the visa holder's length of legal stay in the CNMI.

"Businesses will eventually have to decide whether to continue their operations and, without businesses open and paying taxes, it will continue to impact the CNMI government's revenue and their ability to operate for our community. Unfortunately, this is a revolving cycle, so we need to support our businesses and ask them to keep pushing through during this time of uncertainty," the Chamber noted in their statement to *Saipan Tribune*.

Yutu affected number of Step-Up participants

The CNMI Public School System Step-Up program drew a fewer number of participants this year and that is being blamed largely on the lingering effects of Super Typhoon Yutu, which wreaked havoc in the Marianas last year.

In an interview with Asapmar Ogumoro, PSS teacher and member of the Step-Up committee, he said they were surprised that there were even participants because the deadline to register for the program was around the time Super Typhoon Yutu hit the Marianas back in October 2018.

"We were actually surprised to have participants considering [Super] Typhoon Yutu was on the way [at that time]. The application and registration for Step-Up was during the time when our schools were still closed so we weren't sure if we were going to get any applicants but we stayed hopeful and we're actually really surprised to have applicants," he said.

Originally, seven students applied for the program but the number went down to three as the other four were not able to finish the application process. The three participants were Marianas High School's Catherin Byen and Ryan Kang and Kagman High School's Jemalynn Iguel.

"The University of Hawaii and the National Institute of Health coordinated the application process. We were excited to work with any student who made it through," he said.

The application process was actually extended to accommodate the students in the Marianas, according to Ogumoro.

"One of the requests, when they asked us what can NIH do to help the CNMI, was that, one, they extend the application, also some of the deadlines like the deadline to submit an abstract, deadline to submit the PowerPoint, they extended that as well just to give our students that extra time. The only thing that stayed the same was the national presentation," he said.

Ogumoro said that even with the deadline extensions, it was still a struggle for the students but the participating students were able to make do with what they were given and he was blow away by their efforts.

"Our students didn't have much research time, and that was a challenge but they were able to put so much together by extending their hours in the day because of the days lost. We typically get 8-9 weeks research period, but our students had about 6-7 weeks. We felt like we lost two or three weeks but we are always surprised with what our students can do because they always come out and make it happen and I'm kind of blown away by the work they've done," he said. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

CNMI, Guam condole with Palau over passing of former president

Both leaders of the CNMI and neighboring Guam mourned yesterday the passing of former Palau president Thomas Remengasau Sr., who passed away over the weekend.

Remengasau passed away in Koror, Palau, at the age of 89. His family were reportedly with him at the time of his passing.

Both Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios expressed their sympathies in a statement.

"He was a true leader for Palau, spearheading the nation's transition from the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands to an independent republic," the statement said. Press secretary Kevin Bautista noted that the statement was a brief summary of the governor's and lieutenant governor's letter to the Remengasau family.

"In the midst of political turbulence and uncertainty, president Remengesau Sr. was a voice of reason and a steady public servant, advocating for a political status that would yield the greatest benefits for the Palauan people. He has served honorably as a role model for Palau and Micronesia as a whole, and we are deeply saddened that the Pacific has lost a great man and a true statesman in every sense of the word," the statement added.

The former president was elected into office as a vice president, but rose to the executive position after the assassination of former president Haruo Remeliik in 1985 and the death of former president Lazarus Salii in the following term.

"The Marianas and Palau remain historically connected by culture, family, and tradition, and we continue to strengthen the ties that bind us together. Please know that we are with Palau President Tommy Remengesau Jr., the Remengesau family, and our Palauan brothers and sisters during this time of mourning."

The Guam Legislature also mourned the loss of the former Palauan president through Guam Sen. Tina Rose Muna Barnes.

"…There are no words that can express how saddened we are to hear of your loss," she wrote to the Palau President.

"Your father [Remengasau Sr.] stepped up to serve his people; his selflessness, sacrifice, vision, and love for his people will never be forgotten. We hope that the love of family and friends will comfort and strengthen you in the days ahead," she added.

"Your father set the standard for leadership and excellence, and I am confident you will continue to make him and the people of Palau proud." ***(Erwin Encinares)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Open house at Saipan airport

The Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport will be holding an open house meeting on Wednesday, Aug. 21, 2019, from 6pm to 8pm, at the Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting Building located at 1 Fadang at the Saipan airport. The open house will discuss the ongoing airport master plan study. The consultant team will also be available to answer questions.

Should you require additional information, contact Wendi L. Prater, executive assistant/project manager, or Saipan airport manager William Camacho at (670) 237-6500. ***(PR)***

Modified office hours at KHS

Kagman High School has temporarily modified office hours due to a power disruption on the campus that began on July 23. The repair process is delayed due to the inclement weather. Until such time, note that the office will be open from 7:30am to 3:30pm Monday to Friday (excluding austerity Friday).

The public is advised to plan for two to three days to process all requests that require printed documents, such as the enrollment verification, official transcript and withdrawals. As soon as the power is restored to campus, KHS will resume normal operations from 7:30am to 4:30pm. ***(PR)***

Mariana Guide recertification deadline

Official Marianas Guides who applied for certification prior to June 1, 2019, are reminded to submit to the Marianas Visitors Authority evidence of completion of training at Northern Marianas College by Aug. 7, 2019, in order to receive their official badges. Applications that are 90 days past renewal date by Aug. 7, 2019, will be voided and paperwork and fees will need to be resubmitted. Tour operators are also reminded to submit quarterly employee listings to the MVA. ***(MVA)***

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Apatang: Animal shelter awaits FEMA assessment

By MARC VENUS
marc_venus@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The construction of the Saipan Mayor's Office's animal shelter project is on hold, pending an environment assessment by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

According to Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, FEMA wrote his office that the construction project is required to pass the assessment first.

"We have a letter from them telling us not to start," Apatang added.

He told *Saipan Tribune* that the Saipan Mayor's Office has already sent FEMA all the necessary documents needed to begin the assessment. He also thanked Gov. Ralph DLG Torres for his work in securing funding for the construction of the shelter, especially with the CNMI government undergoing austerity measures.

Apatang

Apatang said the Saipan Mayor's Office was able to secure $324,000 in federal assistance for a new facility. He said they are trying to secure an additional $80,000 to cover other expenses and that Gov. Ralph DLG Torres assured that there will be money for this project.

"As of this date, the mayor's office is still waiting for feedback from FEMA about when the assessment will be conducted, and without this assessment, the construction of the shelter will stay on hold," Apatang said. He said his office was able to secure the required permits from the Bureau of Environmental Coastal Quality, the Historic Preservation Office, the Zoning Office, and the Division of Fish and Wildlife.

The original animal shelter in Lower Base was destroyed in 2015 as a result of Typhoon Soudelor and the building was condemned after the typhoon.

Since then, the Dog Control Program has been housing stray dogs in a temporary shelter in As Perdido.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, the new shelter will be approximately 5,500 square feet, which is nearly the same size as the old shelter that was destroyed. Apatang said it will house 40 dog kennels, 10 cat kennels and 10 more for sick dogs.

Apatang said that once this new shelter is open, the mayor's office is open to anybody who would like to volunteer.

Solar panel, light stolen

Last Sunday, Aug. 4, 2019, at about 12:4am, police officers were dispatched to the MoMo Garden Apartments in Finasisu in response to a 911 call about a theft incident.

Department of Public Safety officers arrived at the scene at about 12:50am and met with an Asian male, who stated this his solar light and solar panel had been stolen. He said he had placed the items on a chair and under a tent before he went to a friend's house for dinner. When the individual returned home he noticed that the items were missing. He reviewed the security cameras and then called for police assistance.

He showed officers surveillance footage of a white Hyundai Elantra entering the apartment complex at about 11:50pm, and park on the east side of the blue tent. An individual who appeared to be wearing a pair of black shorts and a black T-shirt with a design that reads "Chagi Norf " got down from the passenger side of the vehicle and quickly walked toward the tent. The male individual then grabbed the solar lights and its solar panel and quickly made his way back to the vehicle.

If you have any information related to theft incident, call 911. If you wish to remain anonymous, call the CNMI Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
This frame grab from surveillance footage show the theft at the MoMo Garden Apartments in Finasisu.

Fee waivers for Aug. 8 NMC info session participants

Individuals who participate in Northern Marianas College's information session on Thursday, Aug. 8, 2019, will qualify to have their NMC fall 2019 admission application fee and placement test fees waived. The waiver represents a savings of up to $75.

The info session will be held from 5:30pm to 6:30pm at NMC's Olympio Borja Library located at the college's As Terlaje campus. The session will cover the admissions process and various financial aid options, such as the Federal Financial Aid program which uses the FAFSA.

NMC will also host a free FAFSA workshop on Friday, Aug. 9, 2019. The workshop will consist of three separate sessions held at 9am, 10am, and 11am at the NMC computer lab in room V108. Financial aid representatives will assist parents and students in filling out the online FAFSA for the upcoming 2019-2020 school year.

Those interested in attending the FAFSA workshop are asked to reserve a spot in one of the three sessions by e-mailing Financial Aid director Daisy Propst at daisy.propst@marianas.edu or by calling the Financial Aid Office at (670) 237-6791, 6793, or 6794.

For more information about the info session or NMC's upcoming fall 2019 semester, contact the NMC Office of Admissions and Records at 237-6768/6769/6771 or visit www.marianas.edu. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-19-012, Rev. 1

ISLAND WIDE WATER METER INSTALLATION, SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Island Wide Water Meter Installation, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

This Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity work consists of the installation of new service saddles, corporation stops, and PVC service lines from the CUC main to the meter, proper sizing of existing service lines, installation of a water meter on non-metered customers, relocation of existing CUC water meters from private property to public easement, various exploration work, abandonment of unnecessary service lines, removal of existing manifold systems, and as required, installation of new service lines from the meter to the house plumbing.

The Bid Package may be picked-up, upon receipt of a non-refundable payment from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) on an electronic disk file; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on **August 1, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Seven (7) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-19-012, Rev.1, Island Wide Water Meter Installation, Saipan" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **9:00 AM (ChST) on August 16, 2019**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on August 2, 2019 to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Nicolette Villagomez, Water/Wastewater Engineer – via email nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, Purchasing Technician, Senior – via email christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-19-028

REPLACEMENT OF SADOG TASI WWTP CLARIFIER

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified vendors for the Replacement of Sadog Tasi Clarifier Replacement in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The intent of the contract is for the Contractor to provide all labor, equipment, supplies and materials necessary to complete the scope of work which consists of installation of a new circular clarifier mechanism and replacement or repair of the effluent launder box; removal of the old circular clarifier mechanism and sections of the effluent launder box; replacement of the RFP weirs and scum baffle, installation of a new outer scum baffle; installation of new area lighting, wires, and conduit, and disconnect boxes; installation of a new process water spray system for foam control. The work shall include the dewatering and cleaning of aeration basin #3 and the clarifier; routing process flow and maintaining conditions during the construction period; and returning process flow from the aeration basin to the clarifier. The work shall be completed with minimal disruption to the daily operation of the Sadog Tasi Waste Water Treatment Plant. CUC requires the Project to be completed in 365 calendar days from date of award of contract.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of **$100.00** (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on August 22, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST) at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building. One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid MUST be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-IFB-19-028, Replacement of the Sadog Tasi Clarifier"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) September 6, 2019**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time.

Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on August 23, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Westen Knudsen, Water/Wastewater Engineer via email address westen.knudsen@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC P&S, Purchasing Technician, Senior – christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

WILLIAM GILMORE
Acting, Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

JUDGE FINDS WOMAN NOT CULTURALLY ADOPTED CHILD

Woman's heirship claim for share of $1.3M estate denied

Finding that she is not a culturally adopted child of her biological grandmother, the Superior Court determined that a woman is not entitled to a share of her grandmother's $1.3-million estate.

In an 18-page order Thursday, Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho ruled that heirship claimant Rosa Laniyo Norita has failed to prove the factors of the Carolinian custom of *mwei mwei* and therefore is not a culturally adopted child of her biological grandmother.

Mwei mwei, a Refaluwasch way of adopting children, means a person can inherit from an estate as if she is a natural child.

Camacho found that Rosa Laniyo Norita (Rosie) failed to prove that she was the *mwei mwei* child of Rosa Flores Norita because all of the eight factors used to determine whether an individual is a *mwei mwei*, plus the additional factors considered by the court, tip against a finding that Rosie is a *mwei mwei* child.

In denying a claim for a share of Rosa Flores Norita's (Nana Rosa) $1.3-million estate, the judge determined that Rosie is not a culturally adopted child of Nana Rosa.

The estate of Rosa Flores Norita (Nana Rosa) is a sub-estate of the large Maria Mangabao estate, which received $19.3 million from the CNMI government over the taking of the estate's land in Chalan Kanoa in 1993.

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo issued the final distribution of the Mangabao estate to the heirs in January 2018.

Camacho said that for Rosie to be found to be Nana Rosa's *mwei mwei* child, and not just a *kkiriida* or another form of Carolinian adoptee, she must show that by a preponderance of evidence.

Camacho said for Rosie to be found as a *mwei mwei*, she must have produced evidence showing that it is more probable than not that she is a *mwei mwei*.

According to court records, Nicanor Flores Norita filed a petition in June 2018, for letters of administration and for his appointment as administrator of his mother's estate, the estate of Rosa Flores Norita.

The petition listed Nicanor Norita and his brother, Juan Flores Norita, as heirs.

Jacinto Taman Flores filed a notice as an heir claiming he was a *mwei mwei* heir of the estate of Rosa Flores Norita.

Juan Flores Norita filed a notice of acceptance of Jacinto Flores' *mwei mwei* heirship claim.

Last January, administrator Nicanor Norita filed a petition for final distribution in the estate of Rosa Flores Norita and listed as heirs were himself, his brother Juan Norita, and Jacinto Flores.

Last Feb. 15, the Probate Court ordered the final distribution of all assets in the estate of Rosa Flores Norita and closed its bank account.

Two months after the closure, Rosie, a non-party to the closed probate proceeding, filed a motion to reopen the estate.

Rosie's motion asserted a claim of estate assets based on allegations that Nana Rosa adopted her pursuant to the Carolinian custom of *mwei mwei*.

Last May, the Probate Court partially granted Rosie's motion for the limited purpose of determining the validity of her heirship claim as the purported adopted daughter of Rosa Norita, through the custom of *mwei mwei*.

The court then placed the matter under advisement after a hearing last June 3.

In his order Thursday, Camacho found that all of the witnesses presented by both parties have credibility issues and strong biases.

Camacho said because neither party produced a non-biased witness or any tangible evidence, and the parties disagree upon almost all of the pertinent facts, the court must analyze the arguments presented by the parties and weigh the credibility of the witnesses to determine whether Rosie is a *mwei mwei*.

Camacho found that Juan Flores Norita and Nicanor Flores Norita's testimonies against Rosie's *mwei mwei* claim more credible.

Camacho said he makes such a finding because Juan Norita, the natural father of Rosie, was the only witness who had first-hand knowledge and recollection of the event that occurred after Rosie's release from the hospital.

Camacho said Rosie conceded that her biological siblings and cousins (the children of Nicanor) do not give her deference as an elder equal to the rank and status of Nicanor, Juan, and Jacinto.

Camacho said Rosie allowed Nicanor to handle Rosa Flores Norita's probate without her input as the only alleged female "daughter" of Rosa Flores Norita—which would be very unusual if Rosie was a *mwei mwei* because, pursuant to Carolinian custom, Carolinian daughters have a heightened say in the probate of their parents.

Camacho said all of these findings persuade the court that Nana Rosa did not adopt Rosie as *mwei mwei*.

The judge said furthermore, the testimony of the witnesses indicates that, at best, Rosie was the *kkiriida* of Nana Rosa—Nana Rosa's favorite grandchild.

Camacho said a *mwei mwei* adoption results in the child being socially elevated to the status equal to a natural child of the adopting parent—but being a *kkiriida* does not.

"*Mwei mwei* entails a culturally recognized status and inheritance rights, while *kkiriida* does not," he said.

Rosie testified that she never lived with Nana Rosa again after she left Nana Rosa's house at age of 15.

However, Camacho noted, Rosie did not testify that her natural parents reclaimed her after she allegedly left Nana Rosa. Instead, Camacho said, Rosie testified that she moved in with Nicanor Norita.

Camacho said Rosie eventually married, started a family of her own, and moved away from Saipan.

Juan Norita and Nicanor Norita testified that Rosie was never reclaimed because she was never adopted as a *mwei mwei*.

Camacho said Rosie's biological father, Juan Norita, is alive and testified that he never consented to Rosie to be culturally adopted by Nana Rosa.

Camacho found that Nana Rosa did not consent to the adoption of Rosie.

Camacho said there was no credible testimony showing that Nana Rosa acknowledged and treated Rosie as her *mwei mwei* child. ***(Ferdie De La Torre)***

High surf predicted until Thursday

Large monsoon swells are moving toward the Marianas and are expected to generate hazardous surf through at least Thursday morning.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, the high surf advisory is now in effect until 6am Thursday.

Surf will remain at hazardous levels of 8 to 11 feet along south-facing reefs and at hazardous levels of 11 to 14 feet along west-facing reefs through at least Wednesday. Surf heights could briefly reach 15 feet through today, Tuesday.

Surf will gradually diminish around midweek.

The high surf could produce localized beach erosion and dangerous conditions for swimmers and beach-goers.

The public is advised to avoid venturing out along south- and west-facing reefs and beaches. Large breaking waves can knock you down and cause serious injuries. Strong rip currents will be life threatening. ***(PR)***

Longer summer camps eyed

Looking at the successful completion of the 2019 Summer Youth Empowerment Camp, the Carolinian Affairs Office and the Division of Youth Services are interested in planning for a longer summer camp next year.

According to CAO office manager Vivian Nogis, the original plan was to make the camps longer, about four weeks, but in the aftermath of Super Typhoon Yutu, that delayed their plans with the recovery efforts and the ongoing austerity measures that the CNMI Executive Branch implemented.

Since some facilities were still being repaired, the two agencies decided to try to use the San Isidro Youth Center for the first time.

Last year, the two agencies were able to run simultaneous camps at the Kagman Community Center, the Tanapag Youth Center, and the Carolinian Utt in Garapan.

This year's camps were held in separate two-week camps, with the first camp being at the Tanapag Youth Center and the second camp at the San Isidro Youth Center.

"Next year, we're looking at running it for four weeks in one area, or splitting it up to different areas," Nogis said.

Possible locations for the next camp are at Koblerville, the San Isidro Youth Center, and the Tanapag Youth Center.

Nogis said both camps had about 88 total participants. The children were separated by age groups from ages 6 to 12.

Participants were introduced to playing the ukulele, bead making, and other traditional Carolinian arts. They were also introduced to different sporting activities.

According to DYS Family and Youth Enhancement Program supervisor Jennifer Tanaka and DYS administrator Vivian Sablan, the DYS is interested to partnering up with the CAO for another camp and that they hope to be able to make next year's camp go for a longer duration and are able to introduce the participants to more activities. ***(Marc A. Venus)***

RNV Construction representatives pose with the 2019 Tournament of Champions organizers with a $5,000 check.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Hyatt, Blue Stone Management, RNV Construction sign up as TOC sponsors

Hyatt Regency Saipan, Blue Stone Management, and RNV Construction have confirmed their participation as gold sponsors of the upcoming 24th Annual Governor's Tournament of Champions on Aug. 10 and 11, 2019.

The donations include cash and in-kind contributions of $5,000 or more from each company.

"We are extremely thankful for the generosity of Hyatt Regency Saipan, Blue Stone Management, and RNV Construction," said Ben Babauta, TOC tournament director. "We also thank them for their commitment to supporting community projects. Their contributions will make this year's Governor's Tournament of Champions one the best ever."

The 24th Governor's Tournament of Champions will be played at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort's east and west courses on Aug. 10 and 11, 2019.

The TOC tournament fee is $200.

For more information about sponsorship opportunities for the 2019 TOC, contact Marie Sablan at 236-2572 or Amanda Ramon at 236- 2530. For player information and to download the registration form, visit www.tocSaipan.com. ***(PR)***

Blue Stone Management and 2019 TOC representatives hold a $5,000 check for the upcoming 2019 Governor's Tournament of Champions.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Hyatt Regency Saipan representatives along with the 2019 TOC organizers pose with a check for $5,000 for the 2019 Governor's Tournament of Champions.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Free cat adoption this month

Saipan Cares for Animals president Beth Pliscou shows off one of the adult cats that are up for adoption. The organization is holding free cat adoptions for the entirety of August. MARC A. VENUS

By MARC A. VENUS
marc_venus@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Here's your chance to adopt a cat for free this month.

The non-profit organization Saipan Cares for Animals is offering free cat adoptions for the month of August. This is the second time that Saipan Cares for Animals is making this offer available.

SCA president Beth Pliscou said the group's current mission is to lower the stray population in the CNMI, as the islands have been seeing an overpopulation of animals and the group can only take in a certain number. There are no limits on how many cats a person can adopt, and the adoption fee that is $30 is waived for the entire month of August.

These cats and kittens at Saipan Cares for Animals were taken in because of an injury or sickness that their clinic can help take care of. The group took in a lot of animals after Super Typhoon Yutu.

There are also kittens up for adoption for $75 but this charge goes to spaying/neutering the kitten when it is old enough.

The adult cats that are up for adoption are already spayed or neutered and have already been vaccinated for the first year. Pliscou estimates that a total of over 50 cats and kittens are up for adoption.

The group held its first-ever free cat adoption last October and Pliscou said it was a major success, as there were so many people who came and adopted cats, and she hopes the same could happen for this month.

Their clinic is open from Tuesday to Saturday from 12pm to 3pm. The clinic is located in Koblerville, near the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. If in doubt about the location, use Google Maps to find SCA.

Pliscou thanked the community for their support and said that they are open to anyone who would like to help them out and volunteer at clinic. She also said that she would like to host a free dog adoption in the upcoming months.

For more information, contact Saipan Cares for Animals at (670) 285-5448, or check their social media accounts on Facebook (@SaipanCares) or Instagram (@SaipanCaresforAnimals).

Cannabis amendment heads to Torres

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Cannabis legalization inches toward reality after the House of Representatives accepted last Friday the Senate changes to a bill that amends the law that created the Commonwealth Cannabis Commission.

With a vote of 14-4 in favor of accepting the Senate changes to Rep. John Paul Sablan's (R-Saipan) House Bill 21-13, HD1, SS1, the bill now heads to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' desk for enactment.

The bill grants the cannabis commission the authority to promulgate regulations to regulate the cannabis industry.

"It has been six months since I initially introduced it to the House. We are glad that… it's on its way to the [Torres] administration's office," Sablan said in an interview.

The bill, when signed, gives the cannabis commissioners six months to come up with regulations for the industry.

The commission representatives—Matt Deleon Guerrero, Nadine Deleon Guerrero, Valentino Taisakan, Lawrence Duponcheel, and Thomas Songsong—consist of three representing Saipan and one each for Rota and Tinian.

"Once they [cannabis commission] hit that gavel, that is when the clock starts ticking," Sablan said. "…But nothing stops the commission from promulgating rules before six months."

Sablan encourages the commission to "take their time" when it comes to coming up with the regulations.

"This is, for me, a big [undertaking]. I know that…after the promulgation of rules and it gets in the [*Commonwealth*] *Register*, everything starts. …I expect the commissioners to [be] very thorough and to make the best rules and regulations they can," he said. "I am hoping in the near future that, when everything is done, we realize an increase in tourists, ultimately benefitting our Commonwealth."

GIVE YOUR FAMILY A HEALTHY START

The CNMI WIC PROGRAM, together with our partners, MCH, Dental, and Family Planning invites the community for one stop services from us at our clinic in celebration of World Breastfeeding Week 2019.

When: August 07, 2019

Where: WIC Clinic (Navy Hill)

Time: 9:00am to 11:00am

Free Health Screening, Oral Screening, Flouride Varnishing, Family Planning, Face Painting, Games & Raffle Prizes *While supplies last*

Call us at 664-4083/84 for more information!

WIC CNMI

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider. This project was supported by Grant 7NM700NM5 CFDA 10.557 from USDA and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC). The contents above are solely the responsibility of CHCC and do not necessarily represent the official vies of USDA."

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

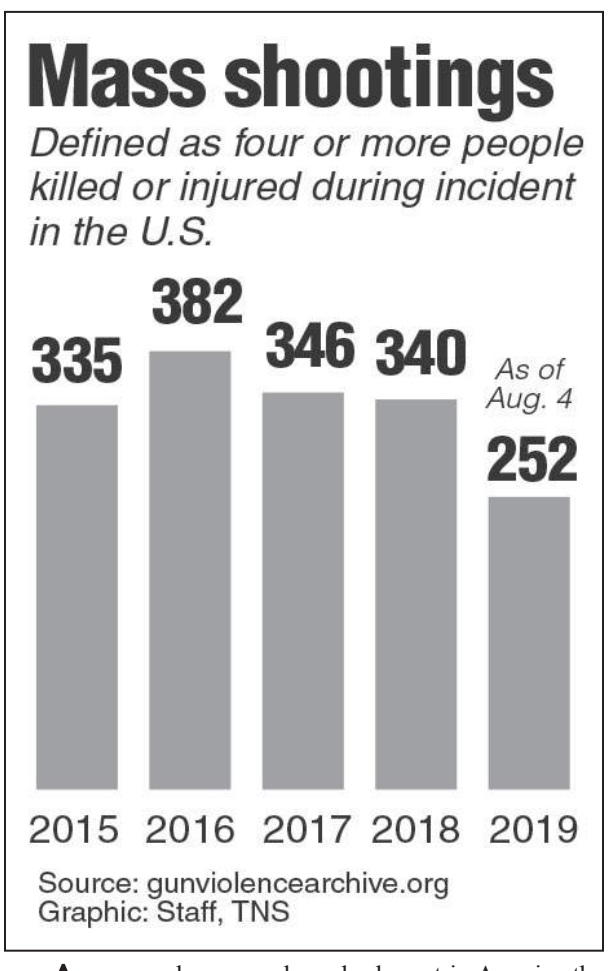
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Hours of madness in America



A murderous madness broke out in America the weekend of Aug. 3, extending from El Paso, Texas, to Dayton, Ohio, 13 hours later. Two shootings, two inexplicable events. Many dead.

This is a shock for the country, but one that's too familiar: A gunman chooses to commit violence against innocent people, against anyone in range. The gunman selects the time and place and then seeks to kill and injure as many as possible in moments.

It happened in Texas and Ohio, and a version of events happened in Chicago too. Soon after the Dayton shooting, someone on the West Side started firing at a group of people at Douglas Park. Chicago police said seven people were sent to the hospital with bullet wounds.

In El Paso, a 21-year-old man armed with a rifle went on a rampage in a Walmart store after 10 a.m. local time, slaughtering at least 20 people, injuring 26 more, police said. The shooting went on for minutes. The store was crowded, the shopping area filled with as many as 3,000 people. The suspect is in custody.

Americans went to bed Saturday night troubled by the carnage in El Paso and awoke Sunday to news of more bloodshed attached to another city's name: Dayton. Around 1 a.m. local time Sunday, an armed man began shooting outside a bar in a popular entertainment area. Police said the

See HOURS on Next Page

MEDICARE FOR ALL. ELIMINATE STUDENT DEBT. DECRIMINALIZE BORDER CROSSINGS. WHICH ONE WILL WIN ON THESE ISSUES?
TRUMP.
NEWS
DEBATE
MIKE SMITH LASVEGASSUN 2019

Just another weekend in America

By SCOTT MARTELLE
Los Angeles Times

It's curious that in response to mass violence so many people struggle to find ways to put on a brave face, or to deflect the real issues.

In Dayton, Ohio, a common refrain this morning is that it could have been worse. A masked man in body armor carrying large-capacity magazines opened fire with a .223 caliber rifle on unsuspecting late-night partiers in a bar district, killing at least nine and wounding an additional two dozen or so. Because it is a popular nighttime gathering place, Dayton police conduct regular patrols and officers confronted and shot the gunman dead within a minute or so, officials said.

So yes, it could have been worse. The police could have been a few blocks farther away. The gunman could have been more efficient in wielding his rifle—make and style still unknown but we all know what kind of gun it was—and the body count could have been much higher.

That misses the point: There shouldn't have been a body count at all.

In El Paso, the site of the previous outrageous attack some 12 hours earlier, local officials have pointed out that the alleged gunman who killed 20 people—20!—and injured more than two dozen others was, in fact, a stranger in town, someone from away. As though that makes a difference to the dead and the wounded. As if Allen, Texas, where the suspected gunman lived, and El Paso are fundamentally somehow different. Are there currents of venality that course through one part of Texas and not another? One part of America and not another?

The gunman in Gilroy—three were killed there—was, in fact, a local and "very much a loner," a neighbor says. It's not yet known where the Dayton gunman hails from but it's a good bet that his driver's license lists an address somewhere in the general area.

In Virginia Beach, Va., in May, a man who had just resigned from his job in the city Public Utilities department shot up, killing 12. In February, another worker opened fire on his former colleagues in Aurora, Ill., killing five. In November, a former Marine shot up the Borderline Bar & Grill in Thousand Oaks, killing a dozen people out for a night of country line dancing.

All local perpetrators. All men. All using firearms.

These aren't strangers in our midst. These aren't adherents to radical religious beliefs from the other side of the world. These aren't agents of a foreign power.

This is us, killing us, with numbing regularity and in disgustingly high numbers.

Politicians, meanwhile, were falling over each other Sunday morning to get camera time on the cable news shows to express their shock and grief. Who can be shocked any more?

What should be shocking us is our political inaction in the case of relentless gun violence. These mass murders grab us by the collective collar and force us to confront the ugliness within society, the sickness within individuals, the cost of deferring to the gun lobby's ludicrous control over gun laws.

Yet we change nothing.

As traumatic as these mass killings might be, they are just the dramatic tip of the iceberg. So far this year—and the weekend is not yet over—the Gun Violence Archive has recorded more than 8,734 people shot to death and more than 17,300 people wounded or otherwise injured in more than 33,000 incidents. And that doesn't include firearm suicides, which occur far more often than homicides or accidental shooting deaths.

It's a safe bet that few of those 33,000 shooters were from "away."

Here are two tangential elements of this weekend's mass murders.

One of the highest-grossing movies of the weekend is "Once Upon a Time ... in Hollywood," a Quentin Tarantino movie that ends in brutal violence. This isn't to argue that Hollywood violence begets real world violence. When it comes to movies, art follows life, and a violent nation that turns to depictions of violence for entertainment is in dire need of a psychiatrist.

The second twist is that the killings in Dayton—a man with a motive, a deadly firearm, lots of ammunition and a crowded street—occurred just yards from a local bar that makes its own beer. The name? Toxic Brew.

These days, that says more about our country than "E Pluribus Unum."

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Had enough? Here's how to fight the madness of mass shootings

By STEVE LOPEZ
Los Angeles Times

Gilroy. El Paso. Dayton.

It's one senseless and horrific mass shooting after another, and you're hit with waves of sadness, anger and frustration.

If 20 children were massacred at a Connecticut elementary school in 2012 and the sensible gun control proposals that followed were handily defeated, is there any way ordinary citizens can ever overcome the combined forces of the gun lobby and the large chunk of Congress it owns?

I put the question to Loren Lieb, whose son was shot and wounded 20 years ago this month at the Jewish Community Center in Granada Hills.

On Aug. 10, 1999, Loren Lieb was at work and so was her husband, Alan Stepakoff, when they learned of the shooting at the Jewish Community Center. Their sons, Seth, 8, and Josh, 6, were both there when a white supremacist on a mission to kill Jews arrived. Seth was OK, but Josh was shot in the leg and the hip and was rushed to the hospital.

He and four other victims survived their injuries, but the same shooter later shot and killed a Filipino American mail carrier in Chatsworth. Josh recovered physically but struggled with post-traumatic stress disorder, and the sound of helicopters and sirens were triggers for a while, Lieb said.

He wanted to go into psychology and counsel trauma victims, but he decided instead not to be immersed in that field, Lieb said.

He's now 26, got married a week ago and is on his honeymoon.

"I wish he was blissfully unaware of what's going on now, but I know he's not," Lieb said. "For a very long time, when anyone said something about the JCC shooting, you knew what they were talking about because that had been the most prominent attack on a Jewish institution." No more.

Lieb has been volunteering for years with the San Fernando Valley chapter of Brady United Against Gun Violence, as well as with the West L.A.-based Women Against Gun Violence.

"I get so angry at people who say there's nothing we can do about this," Lieb said. "We can't accept that. We've tackled difficult problems throughout our nation's history, and this is a difficult problem that ultimately has to be tackled at the ballot box."

The focus is on educating the public about gun safety and the daily toll from gun suicide and homicide, not just mass shootings, and Lieb said volunteers can do any number of things to help.

"Really, the first big thing is to educate yourself. When my kid got shot 20 years ago, I had no idea what the gun laws were or what you had to do to get a gun. I didn't know the various aspects of the gun and ammo industry and how they're regulated," Lieb said. "We educate the public, we also educate physicians, faith groups, school groups—anybody who wants to have us as speakers. And we work on legislation."

If you don't have the time for those things, Lieb said, you can support the cause by donating to the nonprofits working on the issue. If you have limited time, "You can write letters ... but just wringing your hands and saying, 'Oh, my God, this is absolutely terrible,' does absolutely nothing to solve the problem."

For years, the National Rifle Association has been an immovable force, and the gun lobby will keep putting its considerable money and muscle into the fight against gun control.

You obviously can't, as a Californian, vote a congressional representative from another state out of office.

But that doesn't mean you can't lobby for gun control legislation at your state or local level, Lieb said.

"We have the strongest gun laws in the country," she said. "In the '90s, when gun deaths peaked, we started implementing gun laws and the death rate dropped much faster than in the rest of the country, and now it's substantially below average."

Margot Bennett, the executive director of Women Against Gun Violence, said she has been fighting for gun control since the mass shooting in 1984 at a San Ysidro McDonald's. "About three years ago, a very dear friend of mine committed suicide with a gun," Bennett said. "I set about to take action, and the Los Angeles City Council ... passed a suicide prevention ordinance that requires all gun stores and sellers to post suicide prevention information. Not everything has to be a big action. You can make a difference."

The disturbing reality, Bennett acknowledged, is that "it's very easy to get discouraged" as a gun control activist in this country.

Lieb said people like to blame mental health and violent movies, TV shows and video games for our gun violence, but we have the most civilian-owned guns of any country and the laxest regulations.

"We have to accept the reality that what distinguishes us from other countries is guns," she said. Lieb laid out a brief list of gun control priorities that get no traction, no matter how many innocent people are slaughtered. "We should ban military weapons, we should ban high-capacity magazines and we should have background checks," she said.

But she noted that President Trump's nominee to head the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives has said he doesn't support any additional gun control measures—even though we live in a country with more guns than people.

Haters and mass shooters have been around a long time, but we're living in a particularly toxic and terrifying moment. The darkest corners of social media offer both inspiration and audience to the angry, aggrieved and delusional, and we have a president whose most vile instinct is to turn people against each other for his own political gain.

But to Bennett, those are reasons to jump into the fray rather than give up on change. "Not all of Congress is terrible. A part of Congress is terrible," she said. "The Democratic House has produced significant gun violence prevention legislation ... and it is sitting in the Republican Senate, and Mitch McConnell refuses to bring it up for debate and a vote."

Bennett said it's time to lay the groundwork to oust those lawmakers. Polls suggest most people of both major parties support sensible gun control, so call elected officials and tell them you won't settle for anything less.

"Learn the facts. Know who's doing what and vote accordingly, vote single issue, vote locally, state and nationally," Bennett said. "Reach out to organizations like Women Against Gun Violence and sign up for our weekly action alerts. We call legislators and talk about legislation and we share data with people because we operate on facts and not feelings."

There's been a long string of mayhem since the JCC shooting in 1999. Synagogues and churches and other religious institutions have been attacked since then, along with schools, shopping centers, movie theaters, and on and on and on. There have been more than 250 this year alone.

So many, it's hard to keep track of them all.

HOURS

From Page 10

24-year-old shooter, wearing body armor, killed nine people and injured dozens. The shooter is dead.

On cable news television, the talk between anchors and experts shifted from possible motives to "soft targets," a concept of vulnerability that has become part of the everyday vernacular in America. Schools are soft targets, as are offices, shopping areas, nightclubs and outdoor festivals. All have been targeted by mass shooters. Last weekend, a gunman opened fire on the crowd at the Gilroy Garlic Festival in California, killing three and injuring 13.

What kind of evil compels a perpetrator to harm and kill many strangers? Heinous acts of gun violence are neither rational nor predictable. Authorities in El Paso said they identified a rant-filled online "manifesto" they suspect was written by the alleged shooter and posted minutes before the gunfire started. The language suggested the shooting was a hate crime, El Paso police Chief Greg Allen said.

In Dayton on Sunday, investigators searched for leads that might explain the shooter's decision to massacre partiers. The gunman's use of body armor suggests a planned attack, a decision to do violence. Police took him down within moments. Among the dead was the suspect's sister.

There will be many more discussions about El Paso and Dayton. About the availability of firearms of all types, and the willingness of some people to use them. America needs to deal with its propensity for gun violence and the availability of weaponry. Our belief is that there are steps Congress can take to reduce the opportunities for armed villains to kill. They include universal background checks and limits on magazine capacity. The Second Amendment guarantee that individuals have the right to own guns complicates restriction efforts.

But there is something else in play in America that needs to be confronted beyond the availability of guns. It is the rage that compels some people to cause mass, indiscriminate harm.

The madness of gun violence is something we lament and seek answers to in Chicago. Here, gang and drug trade-related shootings too frequently mean gun barrages that kill and wound multiple people. A little more than a week ago, two mothers were cut down by bullets on the South Side. They were standing at an intersection regularly occupied by a group called Mothers Against Senseless Killings.

And then in Chicago early Sunday morning—yes, within an hour of the Dayton shooting—someone in a passing vehicle opened fire on people in Douglas Park, sending seven people to the hospital with gunshot wounds. It was a warm night. People were out late barbecuing. Three women, four men, all between the ages of 19 and 25, were struck with bullets around 1:20 a.m. They were soft targets.

Comparisons invite brutal scrutiny because they're never quite right. True enough. Causality is a complex question. But whatever our problems as a society, some of them stem some from, or create, a grievous and callous rage in some. An angry person with access to weapons represents a particular type of danger in the United States. In El Paso and Pittsburgh. In a Texas church and another in South Carolina. In a Florida school and a Florida nightclub. And on the streets of Chicago.

There will always be guns in America, legal and otherwise. It is part of the culture of this country. But what, if anything, can be done to deal with the anger? It's a troubling question in part because it's so immense. Yet it's undeniable.

There is a streak of madness of America causing the country great harm. In El Paso, in Dayton, and in Chicago.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Wake up, America!

Three mass shootings and barely a word of comfort from President Trump! This administration has shown time and again, it doesn't care. All involved in this "We Don't Care" fiasco demands accountability and that includes all members of Congress who, along with the President, are simply devoid of taking action to stop the carnage. Unfortunately, we have to wait until Election Day to oust this disgraceful bunch of know-nothings and do-nothings. Anyone who thinks this President is doing a great job (foul-mouthed rhetoric, keeping the nation divided, praising the leadership of dictators and demonizing the press and our Intelligence community or anyone who happens to disagree with him) is truly delusional! He says he cares but only about himself as he continues his daily barrage of lies and misinformation while supporting the National Rifle Association, white nationalism and white supremacy. Now, more than ever the phrase, "Wake Up, America" stands out loud and proud!

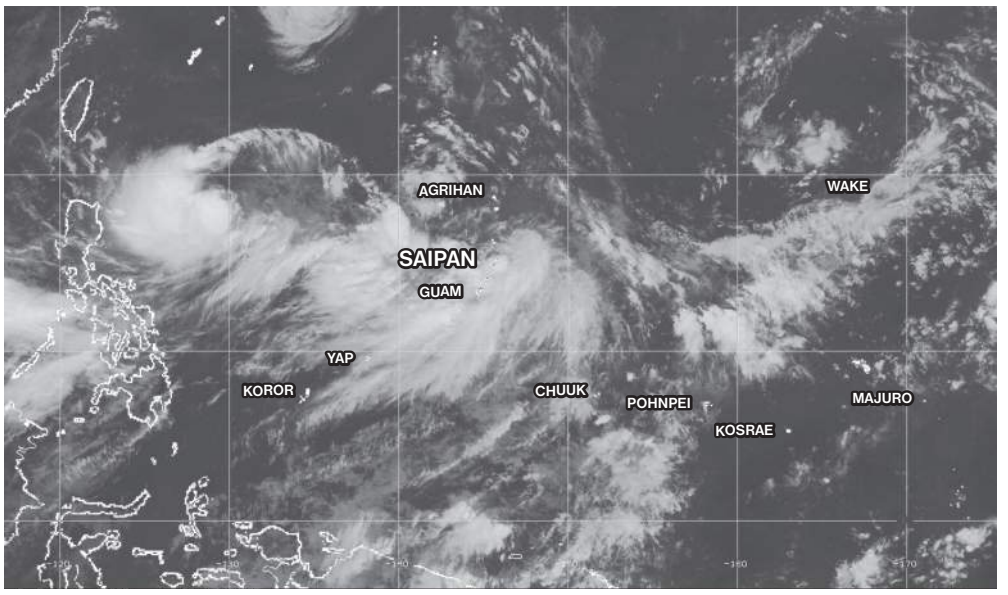
Herb Stark
Mooresville, NC

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southwest winds 10 to 20 mph.	Cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southwest winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
85° / 77°	85° / 77°	85° / 77°	86° / 77°	86° / 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:48 AM, MONDAY, AUGUST 5, 2019
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Andersen Air Force Base Doppler weather radar shows numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms moving through the Marianas waters. The VAD wind profile indicates west to southwest winds of 20 to 30 knots through the lowest 10 thousand feet of the air. They then turn toward the northwest through 20 thousand feet, then they start to diminish and become variable in direction at around 40 thousand feet. The buoys reveal 3 to 5 foot wind waves and 8 to 10 foot swell, both from the west-southwest.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	88° / 76°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	88° / 76°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86° / 81°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	57° / 52°
Beijing	Showers	84° / 72°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	88° / 81°
Honolulu	Showers	88° / 78°
London	Showers	73° / 59°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	82° / 67°
Manila	Thunderstorms	84° / 79°
Melbourne	Showers	57° / 45°
Miami	Thunderstorms	87° / 79°
New York	Thunderstorms	86° / 74°
Osaka	Thunderstorms	95° / 81°
Paris	Showers	75° / 63°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	86° / 79°
Rome	Sunny	91° / 68°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	89° / 72°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	62° / 54°
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	84° / 77°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	93° / 81°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	91° / 73°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
6:02 AM	LOW TIDE	0.79
11:27 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.87
5:59 PM	LOW TIDE	0.52
-	-	-

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:00 AM	6:45 PM
Wednesday	6:00 AM	6:45 PM
Thursday	6:00 AM	6:44 PM
Friday	6:00 AM	6:43 PM
Saturday	6:01 AM	6:43 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	10:51 AM	11:04 PM	-
Wednesday	11:47 AM	11:48 PM	-
Thursday	12:42 PM	-	-
Friday	-	12:33 AM	1:37 PM
Saturday	-	1:20 AM	2:32 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 27, 2019

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:15am	10:00am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:30am	6:30am	4
7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	1:35am	5:20am	Daily
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:35am	1, 2, 3, 5, 7
7C3403	5:00am	8:30am	4
7C3403	5:00am	8:50am	6
7C3401	4:10pm	7:45pm	4, 7
7C3401	4:10pm	8:10pm	1, 2, 3, 5, 6

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	12:05pm	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:00am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA117/183	9:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA117/183	9:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	10:40pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:35am	8:25am	1
UO43	5:50am	8:40am	3, 5, 7
UA117/159	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:30am	8:15am	Daily
UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	3

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:10pm	Daily
TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	1, 2, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:40pm	4:10am+1	3, 5

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	8:50pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:50pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA192/174	9:45pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA184/174	10:25pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/174	11:30pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:20pm	00:30am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:25pm	1:20am+1	7
UO42	9:25pm	4:20am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/174	10:45pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Business

Making Memories: A shop to remember

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

If you're looking for a one-stop shop for gift ideas, party supplies, and home décor, then drive down to Making Memories on the ground floor of the CDA Building in Oleai.

Making Memories, which has been in business since December 2017, specializes in party supplies and party favors, gift items, home décor and, curiously enough, all sorts of items associated with tea.

Manager Joseph Cabrera said the shop is popular for gift ideas during special occasions like birthdays, christenings and baptisms, gender reveals, showers for soon-to-be moms, graduations, weddings, Valentine's Day, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Christmas, and other holidays.

So far, Making Memories' No. 1 bestseller has been its lineup of Gold Canyon scented candles. It's said to last up to 120 hours of fragrance per candle. In fact, Cabrera said that you could light the candle for only two hours and it's already enough to last the entire day.

Aside from the scented candle brand, Making Memories also carries an assortment of gift mugs, tea infusers and recyclable infusers, and tea sets.

One particular tea item it retails are products from Los Angeles-based tea importer and wholesaler, Art of Tea. The company blends and custom-crafts the world's finest organic teas and botanicals. Its teas are selected directly from growers, each one offering a unique story, according to its website.

Making Memories also promotes local products with its endorsement and sale of Coconut Bungalow's very limited stainless steel straw sets. The "COCO CLUB" duo set comes with a cleaning brush, packaged together in its eco-friendly cotton bag.

Cabrera said a portion of the proceeds from the sale of "COCO CLUB" duo would be donated to the Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance, a non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of the natural resources of the CNMI.

Currently, Making Memories has a sale on its party supplies and papersalt books. Cabrera said they've discounted their huge inventory of party supplies by 60% and offering a 20% discount on papersalt products.

Papersalt books, according to its website, are books that inspire, empower, and educate kids and families. Its products are designed to engage through the combination of attractive graphics and simplified content.

While sales were down soon after Super Typhoon Yutu last October, Making Memories has been making a comeback lately.

Making Memories is open Monday-Saturday from 11am to 6pm and closed on Sundays. For more information, call 287-4686 or email them at makingmemoriessaipan@gmail.com. You can also find them on Facebook and their Instagram is @makingmemories_saipan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Celine Cabrera, the 2018 Miss Marianas, poses with Gold Canyon candle products at Making Memories.

MARK RABAGO
The shop specializes in party supplies and party favors, gift items, home décor and, curiously enough, all sorts of items associated with tea.

MARK RABAGO
Making Memories is located on the ground floor of the CDA Building in Oleai.

Barcinas, Manglona are Bank of Guam's newest vice presidents

Barcinas

Manglona

HAGATNA, Guam—Bank of Guam's board of directors, management, and staff are pleased to announce the promotions of Edward G. Barcinas and Rose E. Manglona.

Barcinas has been promoted from assistant vice president/Familia Ambassador Program manager to vice president/director of Training, Development & FA Program. A 2003 graduate of Southern High, Barcinas has been with the Bank of Guam since 2006. He has served in various capacities in Customer Service, Bank Secrecy Act and Human Resources Departments, and was the Tamuning Branch manager and Customer Support Contact Center manager.

Manglona has been promoted from assistant vice president/Human Resources operations manager to vice president, director of Compensation, Recruitment & Benefits. She has been with the bank since 2007 in both the Customer Service and Human Resources departments, having received her Bachelor of Business Administration Cum Laude from the University of Guam in 2010.

She is a Certified Professional (Society of Human Resources Management SHRM-CP) since 2015 and received a Professional Human Resources Certification (PHR) in 2014.

For more information, contact Jackie Marati at (671) 472-5258 or jackie.marati@bankofguam.com. ***(PR)***

ID theft stings, but it's hard to pin on specific data hacks

NEW YORK (AP)—Equifax 2017. Marriott 2018. Capital One 2019.

Data breaches through hacking attacks are distressingly common these days, and personal details about you can lead to identity theft, such as credit cards and loans in your name. But it's hard to pin the blame on any specific hack, as the most sophisticated criminals combine data from multiple attacks to better impersonate you.

"That's why fraud can be emotionally challenging," said Kyle Marchini, a specialist in fraud management at the financial research group Javelin. "It just comes out of the blue, and there's no way to identify where it came from or what I could have done to prevent that."

While the number of reported breaches decreased slightly last year to 1,244, according to the nonprofit Identity Theft Resource Center, the total number of records exposed more than doubled to 447 million. That suggests hackers are focusing on larger organizations with bigger payoffs. Last year's figures include data on about 383 million . Marriott guests in a breach that investigators suspect was tied to the Chinese government.

Criminal rings often buy datasets from multiple hacks to commit fraud. The idea is to collect enough information to get past ID verification and authentication checks that banks and other institutions employ. One database with your Social Security number might have your old address, but hackers can simply sub in your current one from a more recent database.

"We're in this vicious cycle," said Eva Velasquez, the ID theft center's CEO. "We create and capture and use more and more data points about a specific individual in order to fight fraud and authenticate people. That, in turns, makes data more valuable to the thieves, so they are going to increase the efforts to get that data."

Fraudulent card charges are relatively easy to reverse, and U.S. law limits credit card liability for consumers. But fraud involving new accounts is tougher to deal with.

Javelin estimates that the average victim spends 18 hours dealing with the fallout, including convincing collection agencies and credit-ratings agencies that the accounts weren't really theirs. And victims wind up spending hundreds of dollars out of pocket. Javelin estimated that more than 3 million U.S. adults were victims of new account fraud last year, nearly triple the number in 2013.

Much of the increase can be attributed to the cumulative effect of data breaches and the types of information stolen.

While credit card numbers and passwords can be changed, birth dates and Social Security numbers typically stay with you for life. And U.S. passport numbers stick around for 10 years. Hackers in the 2017 breach of credit monitoring firm Equifax got some or all of that from 147 million people. Equifax agreed last week to pay at least $700 million to settle lawsuits.

Just a few days later, the bank Capital One disclosed a breach of personal information of 106 million Capital One credit card holders or applicants in the U.S. and Canada. The data included self-reported income, credit scores and account balances. Although Capital One said it doesn't believe the information was used for fraud, the breach further increases worries about leaked data—in this case, the very types of information needed to submit credit card applications.

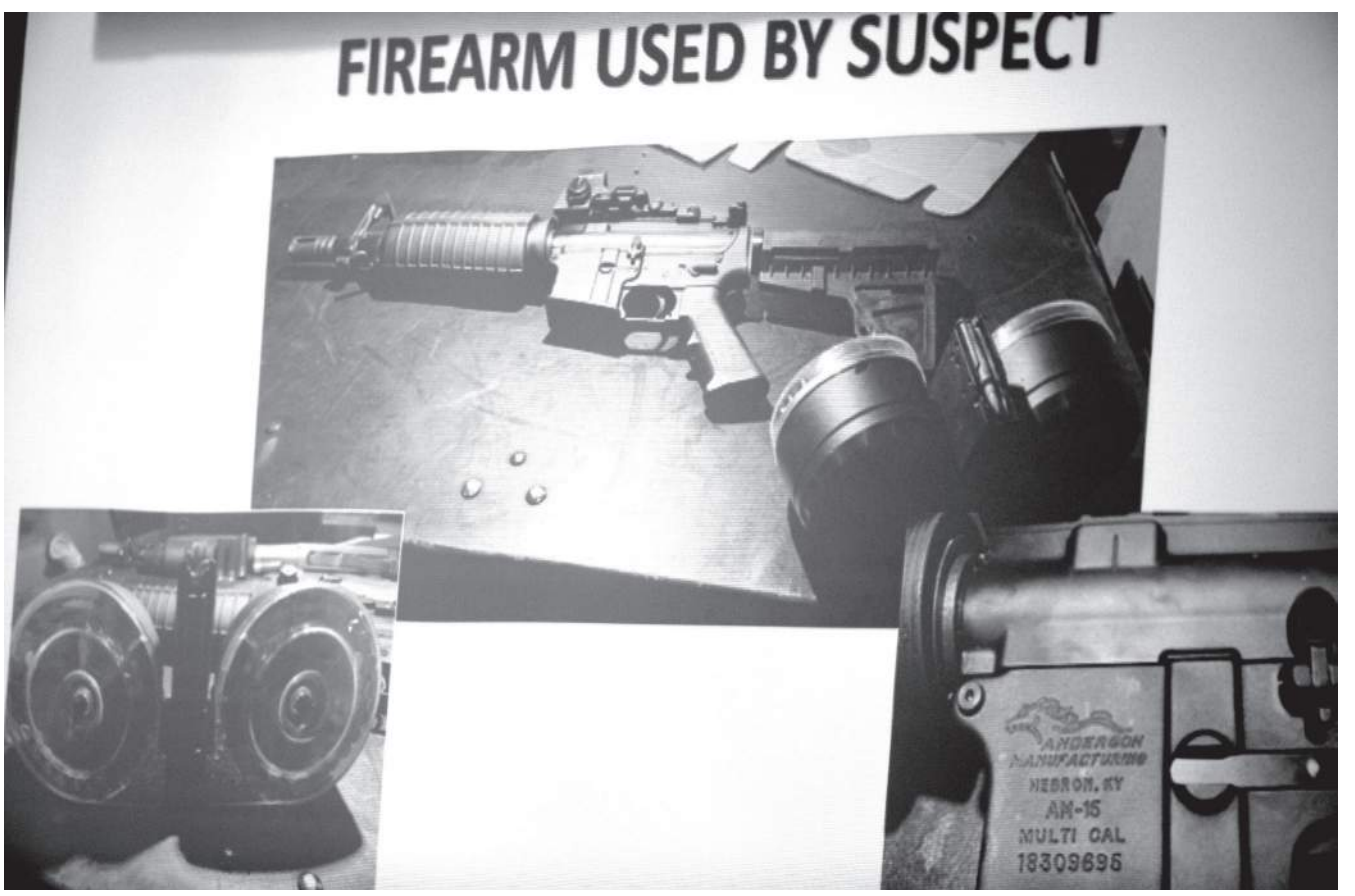
Nation

Classmates: Ohio shooter kept a 'hit list' and a 'rape list'

DAYTON, Ohio (AP)—High school classmates of the gunman who killed nine people early Sunday in Dayton, Ohio, say he was suspended for compiling a "hit list" of those he wanted to kill and a "rape list" of girls he wanted to sexually assault.

The accounts by two former classmates emerged after police said there was nothing in the background of 24-year-old Connor Betts that would have prevented him from purchasing the .223-caliber rifle with extended ammunition magazines that he used to open fire outside a crowded bar. Police on patrol in the entertainment district fatally shot him less than a minute later.

Both former classmates told The Associated Press that Betts was suspended during their junior year at suburban Bellbrook High School after a hit list was found scrawled in a school bathroom. That followed an earlier suspension after Betts came to school with a list of female students he wanted to sexually assault, according to the two classmates, a man and a woman who are both now 24 and spoke on condition of anonymity out of concern they might face harassment.



AP

The firearm used by the shooter Connor Betts, 22, is projected on a screen during a press conference Sunday, Aug. 4, 2019, about a mass shooting that left left multiple people dead and 26 injured along the 400 block of E. Fifth Street, in Dayton, Ohio.

Source: AP
Graphic: Staff, TNS

"There was a kill list and a rape list, and my name was on the rape list," said the female classmate.

A former cheerleader, the woman said she didn't really know Betts and was surprised when a police officer called her cellphone during her freshman year to tell her that her name was included on a list of potential targets.

"The officer said he wouldn't be at school for a while," she said. "But after some time passed he was back, walking the halls. They didn't give us any warning that he was returning to school."

Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Schools officials declined to comment on those accounts, only confirming that Betts attended schools in the district.

The discovery of the hit list early in 2012 sparked a police investigation, and roughly one-third of Bellbrook students skipped school out of fear, according to an article in the Dayton Daily News.

It's not clear what became of that investigation. Chief Michael Brown in Sugarcreek Township, which has jurisdiction over the Bellbrook school, did not return calls Sunday about whether his agency investigated the hit list.

Though Betts, who was 17 at the time, was not named publicly by authorities at the time as the author of the list, the former classmates said it was common knowledge within the school he was the one suspended over the incident.

Attack on Texas shoppers to be handled as domestic terrorism

EL PASO, Texas (AP)—The shooting that killed 20 people at a crowded El Paso department store will be handled as a domestic terrorism case, federal authorities said Sunday as they weighed hate-crime charges against the suspected gunman that could carry the death penalty.

Full Coverage: Shootings

A local prosecutor announced that he would file capital murder charges, declaring that the alleged assailant had "lost the right to be among us."

The attack on Saturday was followed less than a day later by another shooting that claimed nine lives in a nightlife district of Dayton, Ohio. That shooter was killed by police. Together the two assaults wounded more than 50 people, some of them critically, and shocked even a nation that has grown accustomed to regular spasms of gun violence.

Investigators focused on whether the El Paso attack was a hate crime after the emergence of a racist, anti-immigrant screed that was posted online shortly beforehand. Detectives sought to determine if it was written by the man who was arrested . The border city has figured prominently in the immigration debate and is home to 680,000 people, most of them Latino.

Using a rifle, the El Paso gunman opened fire on shoppers during the busy back-to-school season.

The attack targeted a Walmart and did not spread to other nearby shopping areas, El Paso police Sgt. Robert Gomez said.

Most victims were inside the store. By Sunday evening, all bodies had been removed from the store and the parking lot, police said. They did not release names or ages, though some families announced that loved ones had been killed.

Despite initial reports of possible multiple gunmen, the man in custody was believed to be the only shooter, police said.

Law enforcement officials identified him as 21-year-old Patrick Crusius from Allen, a Dallas suburb which is a nearly 10-hour drive from El Paso.

The suspect's grandparents, Larry and Cynthia Brown, issued a statement Sunday evening. A family friend read the statement aloud outside the couple's home in Allen, KDFW reported.

The Browns said they were "devastated" by the shooting and were praying for the victims. The couple added that while Crusius' driver's license shows their Allen residence, he had moved out of the home six weeks ago. Crusius was living with his grandparents while he attended nearby Collin College.

Crusius was arrested without police firing any shots and was jailed without bond, authorities said. There was no immediate indication that he had an attorney.

Gomez said Crusius surrendered after being confronted by officers on a sidewalk close to the scene. Police did not know how many bullets were fired or why the attack stopped.

"We don't have information on what prompted him to stop firing," Gomez said.

El Paso Police Chief Greg Allen said the suspect was cooperative and "forthcoming with information."

Police said they did not know where the weapon was purchased. Allen acknowledged that it is legal under Texas law to carry a long gun openly in a public place.

"Of course, normal individuals seeing that type of weapon might be alarmed," but before he began firing, the suspect was technically "within the realm of the law," Allen said.

Puerto Rico crisis deepens amid clash over sworn-in governor

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)—Puerto Rico's constitutional crisis was expected to deepen on Monday after the island's Senate filed a lawsuit seeking to oust a veteran politician recently sworn in as the island's governor as legislators squabble over who should lead the U.S. territory.

The lawsuit seeks a preliminary injunction ordering Pedro Pierluisi to cease his functions immediately and also asks that the court declare unconstitutional a 2005 law that states a secretary of state does not have to be approved by both House and Senate if he has to step in as governor.

"Puerto Rico is living a situation without historical precedent," wrote Senate President Thomas Rivera Schatz.

Pierluisi was named secretary of state, the next in line to be governor, in a recess appointment last week. The island's House of Representatives then confirmed him to the position in a 26-to-21 vote on Friday, a move he argues makes him the replacement for Gov. Ricardo Rosselló.

However, the Senate had not yet voted on the appointment, and it was expected to do so Monday afternoon. It was not immediately clear if that would still happen after the lawsuit was filed late Sunday night.

Pierluisi said in a statement that there is no time to lose.

"Although it is regrettable that this matter has to be elucidated in our courts, I hope that it will be treated with the greatest urgency and diligence for the good of the people of Puerto Rico," he said.

Rosselló formally resigned on Aug. 2 following nearly two weeks of popular protests amid anger over corruption, mismanagement of funds and a leaked obscenity-laced chat in which he and 11 other men made fun of women, gay people and victims of Hurricane María, among others.

Puerto Rico's constitution says the secretary of state takes over if the governor steps down, and one amendment states that everyone in line to become governor has to be confirmed by both the House and Senate, except for the secretary of state. Legal experts, however, question the amendment's validity and believe Pierluisi must be confirmed by both chambers because the amendment contradicts the intent of the constitution and its statement of motives.

Pierluisi has said the upcoming Senate vote is a moot point because he already is governor.

"They're having a hearing for themselves," he said on Sunday, two days after stating that if the Senate votes against his appointment as secretary of state, he would step down and hand the governorship to the justice secretary, the next in line under the constitution.

Pierluisi added that he spoke by phone on Saturday with Senate President Thomas Rivera Schatz, who is running for governor in the 2020 general election. Schatz has said he has doubts about Pierluisi and insists that a Senate confirmation is necessary.

Further complicating the situation was an announcement made earlier by Carmen Yulín Cruz, mayor of the Puerto Rican capital of San Juan. She said she will file a lawsuit Monday morning questioning whether Pierluisi had the right to be sworn in on Friday.

The crisis could now drag on for days or even weeks, with legal experts saying Puerto Rico's Supreme Court will likely issue the final decision if the Senate does not approve of Pierluisi as secretary of state and he declines to relinquish his position. A well-respected attorneys' organization has accused Pierluisi of "hijacking" the constitution.

Asia

Kashmir tensions intensify amid India-Pakistan skirmishes

AP
Indian paramilitary soldiers stand guard during curfew like restrictions in Jammu, India, Monday, Aug. 5, 2019.

SRINAGAR, India (AP)— Tensions have soared along the volatile, highly militarized frontier between India and Pakistan in the disputed Himalayan region of Kashmir, as India has deployed more troops and ordered thousands of visitors out of the region.

Indian firing Sunday along the Line of Control that separates Kashmir between the archrivals wounded a woman and the ongoing skirmishes spread fear in border villages, Pakistani police said. The frontier residents on the Pakistani side are either moving out to safer places or have begun construction of new bunkers, with some strengthening existing shelters near their homes.

Pakistan and India, which both claim Kashmir in its entirety, routinely blame each other for initiating border skirmishes, but the latest ones come amid the Indian government's evacuation order of tourists and Hindu pilgrims and a buildup of troops in its part of the region.

The measures have sparked fears in Kashmir that New Delhi is planning to scrap an Indian constitutional provision that forbids Indians from outside the region from buying land in the Muslim-majority territory. In recent days, Hindu-majority India has deployed at least 10,000 troops in Kashmir, with media reports of a further 25,000 ordered to one of the world's most militarized regions.

Thousands of additional Indian soldiers on Sunday began camping in police stations and government buildings in several areas of the region.

Authorities imposed an indefinite security lockdown around midnight as government forces laid steel barricades and razor wire on roads and intersections to cut off neighborhoods in Srinagar, the main city of the region.

"As per the order there shall be no movement of public and all educational institutions shall also remain closed," the statement said. It said public meetings and rallies have been also banned.

Authorities also suspended internet services on cellphones, a common tactic to prevent anti-India demonstrations from being organized and stop dissemination of news.

Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan condemned the shelling by India and warned on Twitter that the situation has the potential to "blow up into a regional crisis." He reiterated that "the only road to peace and security in South Asia runs through a peaceful and just settlement of Kashmir."

Later Sunday, Khan and Pakistani political and military leaders on the country's national security committee met and expressed concerns over what it called "India's destabilizing efforts" in the region, saying its recent buildup of forces is adding fuel to fire.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to chair a national security meeting on Monday.

In Pakistan's portion of Kashmir, Mohammad Fareed, a retired government employee in Tufrabad village near the Line of Control, said he had spent over $3,000 to construct a concrete bunker for his family of 10. "It looks like the situation is getting bad," he said, adding that the recent shelling and the dropping of cluster bombs had created massive fear.

"People are using their savings to build bunkers. After all, if you live you will do other things," said Fareed.

Mohammad Altaf, a trader dealing in construction material, said people were buying concrete blocks and crushed stone to construct bunkers in and around their homes.

Raja Farooq Haider, the prime minister of Pakistani-controlled Kashmir, announced Friday the sanctioning of about $19 million for community bunkers for residents living along the border.

Kashmir has grabbed the spotlight again months after a deadly militant attack on an Indian paramilitary convoy sparked cross-border air attacks and brought India and Pakistan to the brink of war.

ASIAN BRIEFS

31 dead, 62 rescued after boats capsize in PH

MANILA, Philippines (AP)— Rescuers recovered more bodies in rough seas where three ferry boats capsized after being buffeted by fierce winds and waves off two central Philippine provinces, bringing the death toll to 31 with three missing, the coast guard said Sunday. Coast guard spokesman Armand Balilo said the dead were mostly passengers of two ferries that flipped over in sudden wind gusts and powerful waves Saturday off Guimaras and Iloilo provinces. Sixty-two other passengers and crew were rescued. A third ferry, which was not carrying any passengers, also capsized in the Iloilo Strait but its five crewmen survived, Balilo said. Survivors recounted how the sky suddenly turned dark midway through their trip, followed by strong winds and rain that battered their ferries. Authorities wondered why a third ferry was allowed to sail about three hours after two other ferries overturned almost at the same time at noon in bad weather. Forecasters have warned of heavy monsoon rains, thunderstorms and rain-triggered landslides amid a tropical depression more than 1,000 kilometers (620 miles) off the country's eastern coast.

Seoul says US, SKorea preparing joint military drills

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea and the United States are preparing to hold their annual joint military exercises despite warnings from North Korea that the drills could derail the fragile nuclear diplomacy, Seoul's military said Friday. Choi Hyun-soo, spokeswoman of Seoul's Defense Ministry, said the exercises will be focused on verifying Seoul's capabilities for its planned retaking of wartime operational control of its troops from Washington. She did not confirm or deny reports that the drills, which are expected to be computer simulated and not involve actual combat troops and equipment, began on Monday. North Korea recently has been ramping up its weapons tests, including two test firings of what it described as a new rocket artillery system last week, while expressing frustration over the continuance of U.S.-South Korea drills it sees as an invasion rehearsal and also the slow pace of nuclear negotiations with the United States. North Korea had said it will wait to see if the August exercises actually take place to decide on the fate of its diplomacy with the United States and also whether to continue its unilateral suspension of nuclear and long-range missile tests, which leader Kim Jong Un announced last year amid a diplomatic outreach to Washington.

Quake hits northeast Japan; officials say no tsunami danger

TOKYO (AP)—A strong earthquake has struck northeastern Japan, but authorities say there is no danger of a tsunami, and there were no immediate reports of casualties. The Japan Meteorological Agency says Sunday's quake had a preliminary magnitude of 6.2. The epicenter was off the northeastern coast of Japan, about 50 kilometers (31 miles) below the seabed. The quake shook a wide area of the region, including Fukushima and Miyagi prefectures. Public broadcaster NHK TV says utility companies are checking on the nuclear reactors in the area. In 2011, Fukushima was hit by a powerful quake, tsunami and nuclear meltdown, the worst nuclear disaster since Chernobyl.

Protesters, police play cat-and-mouse game across Hong Kong

HONG KONG (AP)—The distinctive clang of metal hitting pavement echoed across Hong Kong.

Over several hours, in successive waves on Sunday, different districts filled with the sound of protesters erecting and just as hastily taking down their improvised barricades.

While past nights of protest have ended in protracted standoffs between demonstrators and riot police, rally participants this time took a different tack. Since their pro-democracy movement began two months earlier, they have repeated to one another: "Be Water"—an attitude of adaptability that was on full display as they occupied and vacated with equal swiftness five different neighborhoods.

"We can't defend it!" was the cry that signaled to protesters it was time to move out. It meant that police had appeared and were firing tear gas. A person holding a large purple banner that said "Move Back Slowly" led demonstrators to the nearest public transit and toward another target.

Hong Kong's summer of protest began as a call to withdraw an extradition bill that would have allowed residents in the city to be sent to mainland China to stand trial. Many feared the legislation would destroy the judicial independence essential to the "one country, two systems" framework, which promised Hong Kong certain freedoms not afforded to the mainland when the former British colony was returned to China in 1997.

The agreement was made for 50 years, but some Hong Kong residents feel that the Communist Party-ruled central government in Beijing has already started chipping away at their democratic rights. While the city government has suspended the extradition bill, mass demonstrations have continued with broader calls for direct elections and greater government accountability.

"We are not just another Chinese city, and this is not yet 2047," said rally participant Cara Lee. "I feel ashamed because for a long time we didn't do anything. But now we are awake. I have to speak for the next generation."

Protesters' five major demands include the release of arrested demonstrators, an independent investigation into alleged police abuse and the dissolution of the current legislature, which is only partially composed of lawmakers who were directly elected.

Sunday's rallies kicked off at public parks in different parts of the city. One quickly devolved after protesters used what appeared to be a long, homemade slingshot to hurl rocks and bricks at a police station.

After police began to clear the area, protesters converged on the other rally on Hong Kong Island, where demonstrators were already putting on gas masks and handing out Pocari Sweat, a Japanese sports drink favored by the movement.

World

Was Polish scandal a Russian test for US election tampering?

AP

In this photo taken on Friday June 28, 2019, Grzegorz Rzeczkowski, an investigative reporter for the weekly Polish newsmagazine Polityka, poses with a book he has written about an eavesdropping affair that helped toppled a government, "In a Foreign Alphabet: How People of the Kremlin and PIS Played with the Eavesdropping," in Warsaw, Poland.

WARSAW, Poland (AP)—High-ranking Polish politicians used a side door to get to the VIP section of Sowa & Przyjaciele, a posh Warsaw restaurant. Sealed off from other patrons, government ministers and lawmakers felt free to speak their minds while enjoying continental cuisine and wine at taxpayers' expense.

But the privacy was an illusion, the special dining room a trap.

For about a year, waiters secretly recorded public officials at Sowa & Przyjaciele and another restaurant, Amber Room. When a newsmagazine published transcripts from some of the recordings, it spawned a scandal dubbed "Waitergate" that helped topple a pro-European Union government.

Suspicions that Russia and the nationalist political party that won Poland's 2015 election were behind the illegal eavesdropping persisted even after a Polish multimillionaire was convicted as the mastermind. With the country's next election coming up this fall, a Polish journalist and the jailed tycoon have provided fresh fuel for claims that Waitergate was a prelude to Russian interference in the 2016 U.S. presidential election.

Grzegorz Rzeczkowski, a respected investigative reporter for the Polityka newsmagazine, argues in a new book that Russian intelligence services carried out the restaurant buggings on behalf of the Kremlin. He also presents evidence to allege that Polish intelligence figures conspired to use the recordings to bring the right-wing Law and Justice party, or PIS, to power.

In his book, titled "In a Foreign Alphabet: How People of the Kremlin and PIS Played with the Eavesdropping," Rzeczkowski maintains that, just as with the U.S. election meddling that special counsel Robert Mueller called "sweeping and systematic," Russia's goal with Waitergate was to weaken the West.

"It was to open the road to power for the anti-Western, anti-liberal, anti-democratic opposition of the time," Rzeczkowski told a Polish parliamentary panel last month. "Russia had a full, spectacular success."

The panel stemmed from an opposition lawmaker's push to pressure the government to shed light on the alleged Russian connection. A newspaper subsequently reported that Poland's counterintelligence service is investigating whether a foreign spy agency played a role.

The Russian Foreign Ministry has dismissed claims of Kremlin involvement.

"Poland's political establishment and media community have been working for years to put out a multitude of hoaxes about 'Russian machinations,'" the ministry said. "We see no need to comment on such absurd allegations."

A wariness that Russia is trying to destabilize democracy in central Europe has permeated politics in Poland and neighboring nations since they ended communism after decades under Moscow's control. Many have since joined NATO and the EU while more have applied.

When the eavesdropping scandal broke five years ago, then-Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk immediately pointed to Russia. His remark would give Rzeczkowski his book title: "I do not know in which alphabet this scenario was written, but I know exactly who could be the beneficiary."

Sudanese protesters sign power-sharing deal with military

CAIRO (AP)—Sudan's pro-democracy movement signed a power-sharing agreement with the ruling military council on Sunday aimed at paving the way for a transition to civilian rule following the overthrow of President Omar al-Bashir in April.

Representatives initialed a constitutional document that would establish a joint military and civilian council to rule for a little over three years until elections can be held. The agreement would establish a Cabinet appointed by the activists, as well as a legislative body.

The military overthrew al-Bashir in April following months of mass protests against his three-decade-long autocratic rule. The protesters remained in the streets, demanding a rapid transition to a civilian authority. They have been locked in tense negotiations with the military for weeks while holding mass protests.

Gen. Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo, the deputy head of the military council, told a joint news conference that the deal has ended an era in Sudan's history "characterized by rivalry and fighting."

"We have entered the negotiations as partners and leave as one team. The national will has triumphed... it is a win-win," he said.

Protest leader Omar al-Dagir said a "fair and transparent" investigation into recent violence by security forces against protesters, and achieving peace with rebel groups, would be top priorities for the transitional government.

"There will be no democracy without peace," he said. "National reconciliation will be the slogan of the transitional period."

The two sides reached a preliminary agreement last month following international pressure, amid growing concerns the political crisis could ignite civil war.

That document provided for the establishment of a joint civilian-military sovereign council. A military leader would head the 11-member council for the first 21 months, followed by a civilian leader for the next 18. There would also be a Cabinet of technocrats chosen by the protesters, as well as a legislative council with majority from the Forces for the Declaration of Freedom and Change, the main protest coalition. The legislative body is to assemble within three months.

The constitutional document signed Sunday is aimed at clarifying the division of powers and settling other outstanding disputes.

The final signing of the power-sharing deal is set to take place on Aug. 17, and the military council will be disbanded the next day as the members of the sovereign council are announced, according to a schedule attached to the constitutional document.

Ebtisam Senhouri, a negotiator for the protesters, said any member of the sovereign council could be prosecuted if there is evidence of involvement in violence against protesters. The question of immunity had been a point of contention in recent weeks.

Report: Iran seizes tanker carrying 'smuggled fuel' in Gulf

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iranian forces seized a ship in the Persian Gulf suspected of carrying smuggled fuel, state media reported Sunday, marking the Revolutionary Guard's third seizure of a vessel in recent weeks and the latest show of strength by the paramilitary force amid a spike in regional tensions.

State TV and the semi-official Fars news agency reported that seven crew members were detained when the ship was seized late Wednesday carrying 700,000 liters (185,000 gallons) of "smuggled fuel" from Iran. The local reports did not provide further details on the vessel or the nationality of the crew.

The news agency reported the ship was seized near Farsi Island, where a Revolutionary Guard naval base is located. The island sits in the Persian Gulf between Saudi Arabia and Iran, north of the Strait of Hormuz.

Guard commander Gen. Ramazan Zirahi was quoted by Iran's state TV saying the ship was seized in Iranian territorial waters and had been transporting diesel fuel. State TV and other local media also ran footage of the ship, but did not show any flag or identifying marker for the vessel.

"This foreign vessel had received the fuel from other ships and was transferring it to Persian Gulf Arab states," Zirahi said in comments carried by Fars new agency.

It was not immediately clear why a ship carrying Iranian fuel would transfer its cargo to energy exporting Gulf states, but smuggling has been a source of concern in Iran. Iranian media reported last month that some 8 million liters of government-subsidized Iranian fuel are smuggled daily to other countries where prices are much higher.

The new claims would make this the third vessel seized by the Guard in the past two weeks, and the second accused of smuggling fuel.

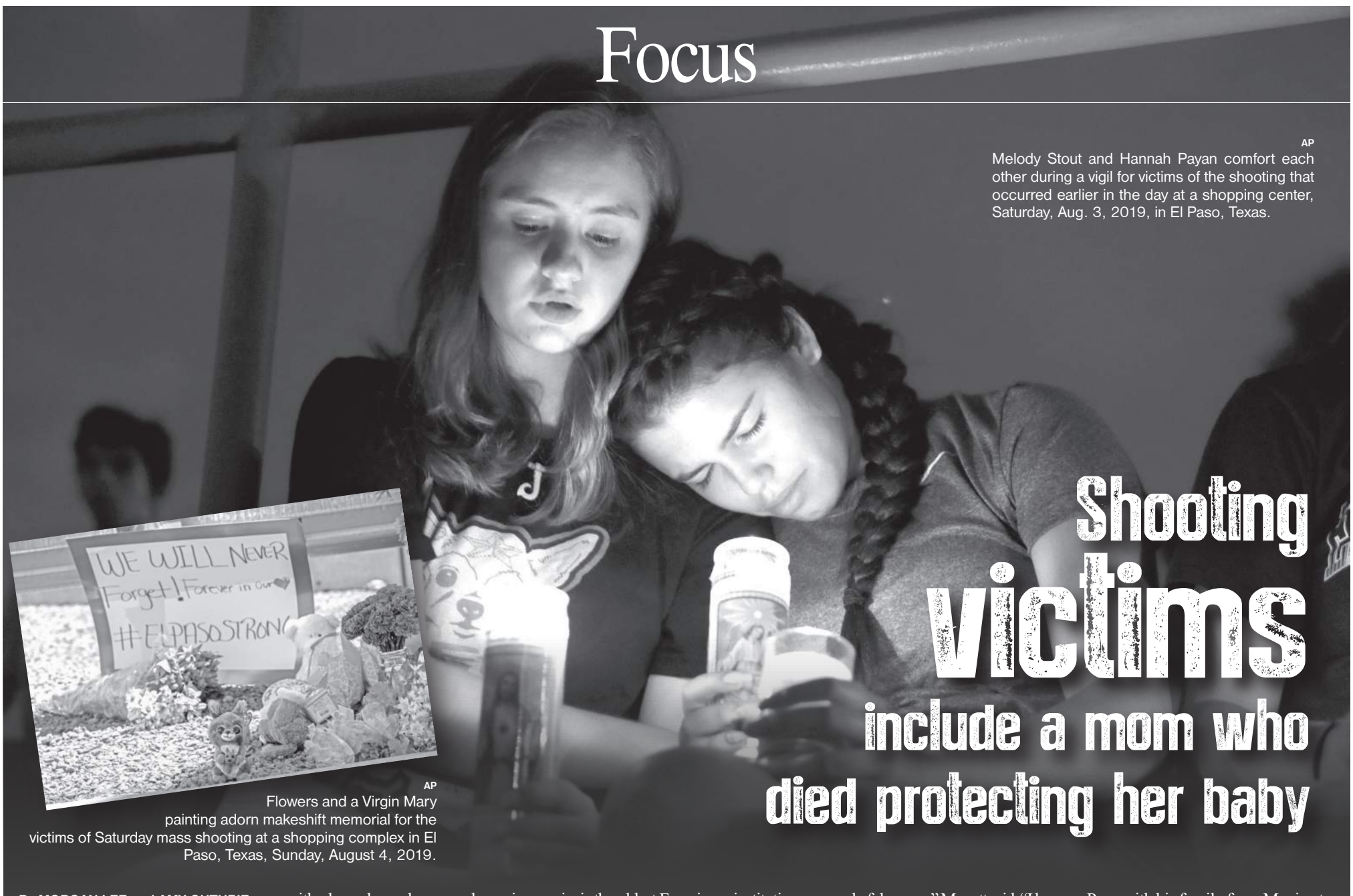
The U.S. Fifth Fleet, based in Bahrain, said it did not have information to confirm the reports. Maritime tracking experts also said they did not have any immediate information about the incident or details on the vessel.

Maritime intelligence firm Dryad Global said that, if confirmed, this is likely to be "another relatively low key interception designed to signal to the West that Iran maintains the capability and intent to exercise its influence" in the Persian Gulf.

Tensions in the Persian Gulf have escalated recently, with the United States boosting its military presence in the region and six oil tankers targeted in the Gulf of Oman in unclaimed acts of sabotage that the U.S. blames on Iran. Iran has denied any involvement in those attacks.

In June, Iran shot down an American surveillance drone in the Strait of Hormuz. President Donald Trump came close to retaliating, but called off an airstrike at the last moment. Washington has since claimed that a U.S. warship downed an Iranian drone in the strait. Iran denies losing any aircraft in the area.

Focus



AP
Melody Stout and Hannah Payan comfort each other during a vigil for victims of the shooting that occurred earlier in the day at a shopping center, Saturday, Aug. 3, 2019, in El Paso, Texas.

AP
Flowers and a Virgin Mary painting adorn makeshift memorial for the victims of Saturday mass shooting at a shopping complex in El Paso, Texas, Sunday, August 4, 2019.

Shooting victims include a mom who died protecting her baby

By MORGAN LEE and AMY GUTHRIE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

In the border town of El Paso, Texas, a shooter opened fire and left 20 people dead and more than two dozen injured. Hours later in Dayton, Ohio, a shooter killed 9 people and injured at least 27 others.

Here are some of their stories:

JORDAN ANCHONDO: 'GAVE HER LIFE' FOR HER BABY

Jordan Anchondo was among those killed in El Paso, Anchondo's sister said, and she apparently died while protecting her 2-month-old son from the hail of bullets.

Leta Jamrowski of El Paso spoke to The Associated Press as she paced a waiting room at the University Medical Center of El Paso, where her 2-month-old nephew was being treated for broken bones—the result of his mother's fall.

"From the baby's injuries, they said that more than likely my sister was trying to shield him," she said. "So when she got shot she was holding him and she fell on him, so that's why he broke some of his bones. So he pretty much lived because she gave her life."

Jordan, a mother of three, and Andre Anchondo had dropped off her 5-year old daughter at cheerleading practice before going to shop for school supplies on Saturday at a Walmart in El Paso. They never returned.

ANDRE ANCHONDO: HAD TURNED HIS LIFE AROUND

Andre Anchondo—the husband of Jordan Anchondo, who was also killed in El Paso—had recently turned his life around after struggles with drug dependence and run-ins with the law, a friend recalled.

On Sunday night, John Jamrowski, a relative, said in a text message that his family has been notified of the death of Andre Anchondo.

The death of Jordan Anchondo was confirmed in the hours after the attack, but the family agonized as investigators waited to confirm more than a dozen other deaths.

Koteiba "Koti" Azzam, a friend of Andre Anchondo, had fond memories of him.

"I love the guy," Azzam said in a phone interview from San Marcos, Texas, where he attends Texas State University. "He had the character and the charisma."

Azzam said Andre Anchondo had started a business in El Paso, building things from granite and stone, and made it successful through hard work. He also was on the verge of completing a home for his family.

"It makes you question your faith almost," said Azzam, who is Muslim. "But God didn't have a part in it. The hands of man altered my friend's life in a drastic way."

NICHOLAS CUMER: HAD HELPED CANCER PATIENTS

A graduate student at a university in Pennsylvania who was interning with a facility in Dayton for people battling cancer was among those killed in the Ohio city early Sunday.

Nicholas Cumer was a graduate student in the master of cancer care program at Saint Francis University.

"Nicholas was dedicated to caring for others," university President Malachi Van Tassell said in a statement. The university, in Loretto, Pennsylvania, is the oldest Franciscan institution of higher learning in the United States.

The family released the following statement through a relative: "We are heartbroken by the loss of our Nicholas in this senseless act on August 4. As our family grieves, we ask for privacy at this time. Thank you."

Cumer had been in Dayton as part of his internship program with the Maple Tree Cancer Alliance, which strives to improve the quality of life for individuals battling cancer through exercise, nutrition, and faith.

Maple Tree Cancer Alliance offered Cumer a full-time position just days before he was killed, the organization said on its website. It described Cumer as hard-working, dedicated and one week away from completing his internship.

"He was well liked and respected by everyone on our team, and we all will miss him very much," the organization said.

Van Tassell said a Mass in Cumer's memory will be arranged on campus this week.

LOIS OGLESBY: A NURSING STUDENT WHO WANTED TO CARE FOR CHILDREN

Lois Oglesby, 27, was in nursing school and looked forward to a career that would make the most of her love for children, her cousin said. She was also the mother of a newborn and had an older daughter.

Derasha Merrett told the Dayton Daily News that she was up feeding her own newborn when a friend called her at 3 a.m. Sunday to tell her, through sobs, that Oglesby had died in the Dayton shooting.

"She was a wonderful mother, a wonderful person," Merrett said. "I have cried so much, I can't cry anymore."

Merrett said she and her cousin grew up in the same church, were on the same drill team and that Oglesby worked at her children's day care center.

"We all grew up in this little town, Merrett said. "We're all family."

JESSICA COCA GARCIA and MEMO GARCIA: FUNDRAISING FOR KIDS' SPORTS TEAM

Jessica Coca Garcia and Memo Garcia were at the Walmart in El Paso to raise funds for a youth sports team one of their children played on when a gunman opened fire, wounding them, a relative said.

Norma Coca told Wichita, Kansas-television station KWCH that her daughter and son-in-law were near the front doors of the Walmart when they were shot.

Coca, who lives in Salina, Kansas, said her daughter, Jessica Coca Garcia, was shot three times in the leg. She said her son-in-law, Memo Garcia, was shot twice in the leg and once in the back. She said her daughter was in stable condition and her son-in-law was in critical condition.

Jessica Coca Garcia's father, Don Coca, said they have family in the El Paso area who were able to be with the couple. Don Coca says: "She was just crying ... I told her that our prayers are there and we're on our way."

The couple's 5-year-old son and 11-year-old daughter were also at the Walmart and were not shot.

MARIO DE ALBA: A WOUNDED FATHER

Mario de Alba, 45, had come to El Paso with his family from Mexico to go shopping.

Described by his sister Cristina de Alba as an "excellent father" and as a "decent, hardworking person," he was in serious condition Sunday after being shot in the back, the bullet exiting via his diaphragm.

His wife, Olivia Mariscal, and 10-year-old daughter Erika both appear to be recovering after also being wounded, de Alba said from the El Paso hospital where her brother is being treated.

The family lives in Chihuahua, Mexico -- a four-hour drive south of El Paso -- and was buying school supplies in the Texas city. El Paso is a popular shopping destination for people who live in northern Mexico.

Mario de Alba's Facebook page shows him as a devoted father to Erika.

In one picture, taken in a living room, Erika cups her hand in the shape of a heart in front of an entertainment center. 0n the shelves behind her are the words FAMILY and PEACE in bold letters.

MEXICAN GOVERNMENT IDENTIFIES FIVE CITIZENS KILLED IN EL PASO

Mexico's Foreign Ministry identified five citizens who were killed in the shooting Saturday in a shopping complex in El Paso. The ministry did not provide ages for them. They are:

- Sara Esther Regalado of Cuidad Juarez.
- Adolfo Cerros Hernández of Aguascalientes.
- Jorge Calvillo García of Torreón.
- Elsa Mendoza de la Mora of Yepomera.
- Gloria Irma Márquez of Juárez.

Overdrive

AUTO REVIEW: Ford rolls out its reborn Ranger pickup for 2019, including the trail-ready FX4

By G. CHAMBERS WILLIAMS III
FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM

The Ranger midsize pickup has returned to the Ford truck lineup 2019 after an eight-year hiatus, taking on the recently re-introduced Chevrolet Colorado/GMC Canyon models, among others.

This revived Ranger has a new exterior design, chassis and powertrain developed specifically for North America, and, like other newer Ford truck products, makes extensive use of aluminum in the body to reduce weight and improve fuel economy.

Available now, the Ranger comes in two cab configurations, SuperCab and SuperCrew, with three main trim levels, XL, XLT and Lariat, with the FX off-road packages available on both versions.

Both body styles have seating for up to five people, but the SuperCrew has more rear cabin space with better legroom, and it has four doors. SuperCab models have a six-foot-long cargo box, while Super Crew versions have a five-foot box.

Prices start at $24,300 (plus $1,195 freight) for a two-wheel drive XL SuperCab model, and base prices climb up to $38,565 for the top-spec four-wheel drive Lariat SuperCrew.

Stepping up to SuperCrew for the XL costs $2,400 more, while it's $2,175 more for both the XLT and top-level Lariat SuperCrew models compared with their SuperCab versions.

Rear-wheel drive is standard, but four-wheel drive can be added for $4,000 on the XLT and Lariat, and $4,160 on the XL.

Our test model for this report was the midlevel XLT SuperCrew with shift-on-the-fly four-wheel drive (base price $34,295) and the FX4 Off-Road Package ($1,295), including an electronic-locking rear differential.

The new Ranger is powered by a 2.3-liter EcoBoost four-cylinder gasoline engine with a 10-speed automatic transmission. The engine is rated at 270 horsepower and 310 foot-pounds of torque.

A twin-power dome hood accommodates the EcoBoost engine, which comes with a twin-scroll turbocharger. The engine has a forged-steel crankshaft and connecting rods, and chain-driven dual overhead cams.

EPA fuel-economy ratings are 21 mpg city/26 highway/23 combined for rear-wheel-drive models, and 20/24/22 for four-wheel drive, such as our tester.

While the Ranger body is mostly aluminum, the truck has a high-strength steel frame, and frame-mounted steel bumpers front and back.

The 2019 Ford Ranger is powered by a 2.3-liter EcoBoostAE engine and 10-speed automatic transmission. AP

As with most midsize pickups, Ford expects the new Ranger to be used as a personal-transportation vehicle rather than as a work truck, with weekend sporting adventures and light DIY hauling in mind.

The Ranger was designed with a muscular body with a high beltline to emphasize strength, Ford says. There also are a raked grille and windshield, adding to the Ranger's sporty look. The design also helps improve aerodynamics and reduce wind noise.

Off-road customers are clearly in mind, as the new Ranger has short front and rear overhangs for clearing obstacles on the trail.

Available is a rugged steel bumper with an integrated trailer hitch receiver, allowing the Ranger to tow ATVs, travel trailers or boats. Maximum towing capacity is 7,500 pounds with the Trailer Tow Package ($495) included on our test model.

Inside, there is a front center dash stack that has an eight-inch touch screen, and there is an instrument cluster with dual LCD screens for vehicle, navigation and audio information.

The FX4 Off-Road Package makes the new Ranger trail ready, and includes off-road shocks, all-terrain tires, a heavy-gauge steel front bash plate, frame-mounted skid plates, FX4 badges, and a Terrain Management System similar to that of the F-150 Raptor.

Features include normal; grass, gravel and snow; mud and ruts; and sand driving modes. The system automatically adjusts throttle response, gearing and vehicle controls to match the terrain or weather conditions.

Also included in the FX4 package is Ford's new Trail Control technology, which automatically manages acceleration and braking on rough terrain. Trailer Sway Control was included on our XLT.

Standard are Dana AdvanTEK independent solid axles on two- and four-wheel-drive models, along with an optional electronic-locking rear axle (standard on FX2 and FX4 packages) for increased traction.

Ranger four-wheel-drive versions feature low-range gearing for serious off-road conditions. There is a knob on the left side of the center console shifter that electronically engages 4WD High or 4WD Low modes, along with the normal 2WD.

We took our Ranger on some mild state and national park off-road trails, where it performed flawlessly in light dirt and sand (but we did not encounter any mud or heavy rock). Shifting into and out of 4WD was quick and easy.

Advanced safety and driver-assist technologies include standard Automatic Emergency Braking, along with Lane Keeping Assist, Lane Departure Warning, Reverse Sensing System and a Blind Spot Information System with trailer coverage standard on XLT and Lariat trims.

Lariat models also come with Pedestrian Detection and Adaptive Cruise Control. Adaptive cruise was included on our XLT model in the Technology Package ($795), which also brought the Ford SYNC 3 entertainment and connectivity system, with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto compatibility, Alexa personal assistant functionality and navigation.

Among other available Ranger features are LED headlights and taillights, puddle lamps, cargo bed lighting, and the Smart Trailer Tow connector, which tells the driver if the trailer light connection isn't working.

Our XLT included such standard features as automatic halogen headlights, with auto high beams; fog lights; a power tailgate lock; privacy glass; rearview camera; tilt/telescopic steering column; dual sliding sun visors with vanity mirrors; folding second-row bench seat; outside temperature display; and a locking glove box.

We had two 12-volt power outlets and two USB ports in the front of the shifter just under the dash, and there was a 110-volt power outlet as well.

Other standard features included 4-G Wi-Fi; auto stop/start for the engine, designed to save fuel in stop-and-go traffic; hill-start assist; remote keyless entry with pushbutton start; curve control; and a perimeter alarm.

Our truck came with the Equipment Group 302A ($2,800), which brought dual-zone automatic climate control, a sliding rear window with defrost, and remote start.

Additional options on our tester included very nice 18-inch machined-aluminum wheels ($895), replacing the standard 17-inch wheels; a sprayed-in bedliner ($495); tray-style floor liner ($135); and the Ford keyless-entry keypad on the driver's door ($95), which ensures that you'll never be locked out.

We found the front bucket seats to be generally comfortable, even on a semi-long drive. The rear seat is comfy enough for two adults, but tight for three. Rear knee room is limited, however – especially if the front seats are very far back on their tracks.

The Ranger's ride was surprisingly cushy for a truck, and the cabin was quieter than expected, even at highway speeds. These features helped make our Ranger a decent road-trip vehicle.

There was plenty of power for our needs, even on some mountain grades, and the 10-speed transmission shifted smoothly and efficiently. We did not load our Ranger with rear passengers or cargo, however, and did not tow any trailers.

Our Ranger's exterior color was Lightning Blue, and the cabin came with Ebony premium cloth seats. (Lariat models have leather.)

Overall, Ford has done an excellent job designing and equipping the new Ranger, bringing a quality entry to the midsize pickup category. It's a sound competitor to the Colorado and Canyon, as well as the Toyota Tacoma and Nissan Frontier.

Total sticker price of our 2019 Ford Ranger XLT SuperCab with four-wheel drive and the FX4 Off-Road Package was $42,485, including freight and options.

NUTS & BOLTS

2019 Ford Ranger XLT FX4 CrewCab 4WD Pickup

- The package: Midsize, four-door, turbocharged four-cylinder, gasoline-powered, four-wheel-drive, five-passenger crew cab pickup truck.
- Highlights: Ford's Ranger pickup returns to the U.S. market for 2019 after an eight-year absence. It comes in two cab/bed configurations with rear- or four-wheel drive. The XLT CrewCab with the FX4 off-road gear is trail-ready, has decent power, and has lots of standard features.
- Negatives: Pricey for a midsize pickup in this configuration.
- Engine: 2.3-liter turbocharged inline four-cylinder (gasoline).
- Transmission: Ten-speed automatic.
- Power/torque: 270 HP/310 foot-pounds.
- Brakes, front/rear: Disc/disc, antilock.
- Electronic stability control: Standard.
- Air bags: Front seat-mounted side; overhead side-curtain, both rows.
- Overall length: 210.8 inches.
- Curb weight: 4,441 pounds.
- Towing capacity: 7,500 pounds.
- Cargo capacity: 1,560 pounds; 61-inch cargo bed.
- Major competitors: Toyota Tacoma, Nissan Frontier, Chevrolet Colorado, GMC Canyon, Honda Ridgeline.
- Fuel capacity/type: 18 gallons/ unleaded regular gasoline.
- EPA fuel economy: 21 mpg city/26 highway/23 combined (2WD); 20/24/22 (4WD).
- Base price: $34,295, plus $1,195 freight (XLT CrewCab 4WD).
- Price as tested: $42,485, including freight and options (includes FX4 package).
- On the Road rating: 8.5 (of a possible 10).

Prices shown are manufacturer's suggested retail. Actual selling price may vary.

Life & Style

Katy Perry, others ordered to pay $2.78M for copying song

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Katy Perry, her collaborators and her record label must pay more than $2.78 million because the pop star's 2013 hit "Dark Horse" copied a 2009 Christian rap song, a federal jury decided Thursday.

It was an underdog victory for rapper Marcus Gray, a relatively obscure artist once known as Flame, whose 5-year-old lawsuit survived constant court challenges and a trial against top-flight attorneys for Perry and the five other music-industry heavyweights who wrote her song.

The amount fell well short of the nearly $20 million sought by attorneys for Gray and the two co-writers of "Joyful Noise"—Emanuel Lambert and Chike Ojukwu—but they said they were pleased.

"We weren't here seeking to punish anyone," said Gray's attorney, Michael A. Kahn. "Our clients came here seeking justice, and they feel they received justice from a jury of their peers."

Perry herself was hit for just over $550,000, with Capitol Records responsible for the biggest part of the award—$1.2 million. Defense attorneys had argued for an overall award of about $360,000.

Perry's attorney, Christine Lepera, said they plan to vigorously fight the decision.

"The writers of Dark Horse consider this a travesty of justice," Lepera said.

"Dark Horse," which combines elements of pop, hip-hop and trap styles, was a mega-hit for the Santa Barbara, California-born singer, with its call-and-response chorus of "Are you ready for (ready for), a perfect storm (perfect storm)?"

It spent four weeks at No. 1 on Billboard's Hot 100 in early 2014, and Perry would later perform it at the Super Bowl.

Gray, a native of St. Louis, sued later in 2014. His song of earnest and ebullient praise stood in stark contrast to the playful black magic evoked by "Dark Horse," and an early version of the lawsuit faulted Perry's song for tainting the sanctity of his.

The two-week trial had two phases: One about music, one about money.

Perry took the witness stand on the first day of testimony. She testified, as her co-writers would, that she had never heard of Gray or Flame or "Joyful Noise" until he sued.

Perry

She got a rare laugh from the courtroom when her attorneys were struggling with technical issues as they tried to play a part of "Dark Horse."

"I could perform it for you live," said Perry, who did not appear in court for the rest of the trial.

The jury heard testimony from musicologists on the disputed section of the two songs—a piece of the musical backing track that plays during the verses of "Dark Horse" and throughout almost all of "Joyful Noise."

While jurors were told to consider only those sections, they gave a surprisingly sweeping verdict Monday that held all six songwriters responsible for copying "Joyful Noise." That included Perry, who wrote only lyrics, her co-lyricist Sarah Hudson, and Juicy J, who only provided a rap verse for the song.

The instrumental track that was most at issue was created by Dr. Luke, Max Martin and Circuit.

During closing arguments earlier Thursday, Gray's attorneys said that because the relevant riff plays through 45 percent of "Dark Horse," the plaintiffs should get 45 percent of its earnings, including every album that included it. They put those overall earnings at $41 million, thus seeking nearly $20 million.

The defense argued that only fractions of the album earnings should count for the single song and that considerable promotional expenses paid by Capitol Records should be subtracted.

2 Dillinger relatives doubt body in grave is the gangster

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Two relatives of notorious 1930s gangster John Dillinger who plan to have his remains exhumed as part of a television documentary say they have "evidence" the body buried in an Indianapolis cemetery may not be him and that FBI agents possibly killed someone else in 1934.

The FBI immediately disputed that idea, calling it a "myth" that its agents didn't fatally shoot Dillinger outside a Chicago theater more than 85 years ago. The agency said in a statement that "a wealth of information supports Dillinger's demise" including fingerprint matches.

But in affidavits released by the Indiana State Department of Health, two relatives of the famed criminal say they're seeking to have "a body purported to be John H. Dillinger" exhumed from Crown Hill Cemetery for a forensic analysis and possible DNA testing.

In this July 1934 file photo, people view the body of gangster John Dillinger in a Chicago morgue. AP

The planned exhumation will be part of a documentary on Dillinger for The History Channel, a spokesman for A&E Networks confirmed earlier this week.

Mike Thompson and Carol Thompson Griffith, who say Dillinger was their uncle, wrote in affidavits supporting an exhumation and reburial permit the state agency approved in July that they have received "evidence that demonstrates that the individual who was shot and killed at the Biograph Theater in Chicago on July 22, 1934 may not in fact have been my uncle, John H. Dillinger."

In their affidavits, both say that "evidence" includes that the eye color of the man killed outside that theater didn't match Dillinger's eye color, his ears were shaped differently, the fingerprints weren't a match and that he had a heart condition. The document doesn't elaborate on why the heart condition supports their theory that the man wasn't Dillinger.

After 'Bachelorette' finale, Hannah Brown looks to future

NEW YORK (AP) —Now that she's moved on from being ABC's "Bachelorette, " Hannah Brown is looking to the future.

Brown says she can't be sure what's next, but wants to use her platform.

"I think there are a lot of opportunities out there for me," said Brown, a 24-year-old former Miss Alabama.

Brown

"I appreciate the support, but I don't think that you're done seeing me, I want to be able to use this platform to talk about what change has happened with me and that's through the good times and the bad times," she said, adding that she thinks a lot of women can relate.

On Tuesday's finale, viewers saw Brown get engaged to Jed Wyatt. Their happiness was short-lived because the day after their engagement she learned that he had a girlfriend when he joined the show. Cameras rolled as she confronted him. Also on Tuesday, Brown confirmed that she had ended the engagement.

But even though Wyatt made a mistake, Brown said, she believes he's a good person at his core.

"I have already said my piece and so it's not for me to continue to punish him. I think he learned a lot and I know that there's goodness inside of him, and I think he is really going to grow as a man from this and I wish him well in his future."

Fans of the show largely supported Brown for her decision and they've been vocal on social media.

"I absolutely feel the support," Brown said. "There have been times where the criticism feels like the loudest, but I've always felt and cared for the people who have just loved me, supported me, understood me throughout even choices and decision that some people, you know, may have made differently. You don't know what it's like to be in this position so it's been really good to have the people just love on me."

She said she's moved on from Wyatt, but giving up the dream of a future with him was difficult.

'The Rookie' star alleges sexual harassment, discrimination

NEW YORK (AP)—Afton Williamson, co-star of the ABC crime series "The Rookie," said she's quitting the show because of sexual harassment and racial discrimination she experienced during the show's first season.

In an Instagram post Sunday, Williamson said that throughout the filming of the show's pilot, "I experienced racial discrimination/racially charged inappropriate comments from the hair department."

Williamson said the treatment worsened when she was sexually harassed by a recurring guest star, bullied by executive producers and ultimately was sexually assaulted by a crew member at a wrap party.

ABC Studios responded later Sunday with a statement, largely referring to its production partners, Entertainment One.

Williamson

"The allegations involve a production from Entertainment One," the network said. "In late June, eOne made us aware and informed us that they launched an investigation that is ongoing. The safety of working environments is a top priority for us, and we take this matter very seriously."

Entertainment One, in a statement of its own, said it takes Williamson's claims seriously. "We have initiated an independent investigation which is ongoing and as such, it would be inappropriate to comment at this time," the production company said.

A representative for Williamson didn't respond to messages seeking further details on the actress's claims, or whether the alleged sexual assault was reported to the police.

Williamson, who is African American, was also highly critical of how her claims were handled by showrunner and executive producer Alexi Hawley, who is white. Williamson said she filed reports on the incidents to Hawley, but they weren't seriously investigated by the network or shared by Hawley with other producers.

"After my initial report of sexual harassment, I was assured that the actor would be fired," said Williamson of the guest star. "I was also asked to film with him the very next day as a courtesy to the script, even though we had not begun filming the episode yet."

Representatives for Hawley didn't immediately respond to messages Sunday.

Williamson co-starred in the Los Angeles-based ABC drama. In the show, Nathan Fillion stars as a rookie police officer.

California school draws crowd to view mural some call racist

People fill the main entryway of George Washington High School to view the controversial 13-panel, 1,600-square foot mural, the "Life of Washington," during an open house for the public Thursday, Aug. 1, 2019, in San Francisco. AP

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Over 100 people packed the lobby of a San Francisco public high school to view a controversial mural criticized as racist and degrading for its depiction of black and Native American people.

Officials allowed visitors to see the "Life of Washington" mural for two hours on Thursday after the San Francisco School Board voted in June to paint over the 83-year-old fresco. Since then, there has been much pushback about the decision, including an effort to include a measure on the 2020 ballot to preserve the mural and a protest petition signed by more than 400 academics.

The public viewing opportunity came in response to multiple requests over the past several months, according to Laura Dudnick, spokesperson for the San Francisco Unified School District.

Most of those at the viewing were retirees, with a handful of kids on summer vacation with their relatives. Many were alumni of the school, as well as artists and art historians. Some were local and others came in from towns outside San Francisco to glimpse the much-discussed mural.

The vast majority of visitors were steadfastly against destroying the mural. Multiple people milled about the space, handing out fliers detailing the history of the mural and arguments against its destruction.

Roberta McLaughlin, 78, collected signatures on a poster on which she wrote, "Educate Do Not Eradicate" and said she would present it to the school board in an effort to have the members consider their vote.

The school board is under the "misguided notion that this mural fosters inequality and racism," she said. "I think this mural does the opposite . It shows us how racism is so embedded in our country's history."

Clelia Donovan, 55, is a lecturer in Portuguese at the University of California, Berkeley and brought her 13-year-old daughter, Donatella, to see the mural.

She said she understood why students might feel negatively about what she called "an amazing work of art," but didn't think that painting it over would "erase the causes of why they feel uncomfortable."

The mural was painted by Victor Arnautoff, one of the foremost muralists in the San Francisco area during the Depression. In addition to depicting Washington as a soldier, surveyor and statesman, the 13-panel, 1,600-square-foot (149-square-meter) mural at George Washington High School contains images of white pioneers standing over the body of a Native American and slaves working at Washington's Mount Vernon estate in Virginia.

New Deal scholars have argued that Arnautoff, a Russian-born communist and social critic, critically depicts unsavory aspects of American history in his work. But as early as the 1960s, some students at George Washington High School have argued that the mural's imagery is offensive and racist.

Linda Fadeke Richardson of San Francisco was one of the few people at the viewing who supported the board's decision to paint over the mural. She said that as an African American, she found the mural "derogatory."

"There is a notion we have to keep this as a remembrance for Native Americans, for African Americans, for people who have been oppressed," she said. "(But) anywhere we find these kind of images, they need to be abolished."

Universal says doubling Orlando resort size with 4th park

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Universal Orlando officials said Thursday that the resort is doubling in size with plans for an "epic" fourth theme park, but they offered almost no information on when the new park will open, what it will hold or how much they are spending.

The secretive nature of the new park is "because of competitive pressure," Universal Parks & Resorts CEO Tom Williams said at a news conference with Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis and his boss, Comcast CEO Brian Roberts.

"You are aware of the competitive nature of this Orlando marketplace," Williams said. "We're all battling for the time of visiting guests to come to our location and to share details of what we have in mind with the competition is something we have no interest in doing."

The announcement is the latest salvo in the war for dominance between Walt Disney World and Universal Orlando in America's theme park capital.

Despite the lack of details, officials with the theme park resort promised the new park would be epic. To that end, they're calling the new park Universal's Epic Universe.

"Last I heard, a universe is bigger than a world," said Williams, making a dig at Disney World.

The new park will be located on a 750-acre site separated by a few miles from the current Universal Orlando property that is home to the Universal Studios and Islands of Adventure parks, as well as the Volcano Bay water park.

More than 14,000 workers will be hired on top of the existing 25,000-person labor force in Orlando. They will be paid a starting minimum wage of $15 an hour, officials said.

The company also has theme parks in California, China, Japan and Singapore.

Comcast purchased NBCUniversal almost a decade ago. During that time, Comcast has put more money into theme parks than any other part of the company, Roberts said Thursday. That investment had paid for Harry Potter-themed lands and rides based on other franchises, such as "Fast & Furious."

The fourth park will be the biggest investment the Comcast NBCUniversal has made in its theme park business, Robert said. It will have a park, hotels, restaurants and shops, and more details will be released as the project gets under way, officials said.

'Hobbs & Shaw' is No. 1 but trails pace of 'Fast & Furious'

NEW YORK (AP)—The first spinoff of the 18-year-old "Fast & Furious" franchise, "Hobbs & Shaw," sped away with $180.8 million in its worldwide debut, including $60.8 million domestically—a strong opening that dethroned "The Lion King" after a two-week reign at No. 1 but couldn't match the box-office pace of recent "Fast & Furious" films.

"Fast & Furious Presents: Hobbs & Shaw" was crafted as a buddy-movie left turn for the car-mad franchise. It teams two franchise regulars, Dwayne Johnson's federal agent Luke Hobbs and mercenary Deckard Shaw (Jason Statham), for an adventure outside the previous eight films. Those will resume in May with "Fast & Furious 9."

The deviation came with a slight risk for Universal Pictures. The "Fast & Furious" films have developed into one of the most bankable series in Hollywood. The last two entries each grossed more than $1 billion. "The Fate of the Furious" took in $1.2 billion in 2017. "Furious 7" made $1.5 billion in 2015.

The opening for "Hobbs & Shaw," while right on expectations, is the smallest domestic debut for a "Fast & Furious" film since 2006′s "The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift." But the $200 million release is aiming to do its largest damage abroad; it grossed $120 million internationally over the weekend. That's without China, where "Fast & Furious" films have excelled. It opens there August 23.

Jim Orr, distribution chief for Universal, pointed to strong audience response, across demographics, to "Hobbs & Shaw" as evidence of its widespread support and playability as a crowd-pleaser through the doldrums of August. While the film scored a 67% fresh rating on Rotten Tomatoes, audiences gave it a 90%. The CinemaScore was A-minus.

"It's super encouraging and really tells about how broad this franchise plays," said Orr. "We are obviously all extraordinarily excited to see this homegrown 'Fast & Furious' franchise break out down another avenue."

"The Lion King" slid to second in its third weekend with $38.2 million. The Disney remake earlier this week crossed $1 billion worldwide, becoming the fourth Disney movie this year to do so. It joins "Avengers: Endgame," ″Aladdin" and "Captain Marvel" in that club, with "Toy Story 4″ ($959.3 million) poised to soon join them. Not accounting for inflation, this "Lion King" ($1.195 billion) has now out-grossed the 1994 original ($968.5 million).

Original 'Nancy Drew' passes torch to TV's newest version

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Pamela Sue Martin, TV's original Nancy Drew, has passed the torch to the actress playing the latest incarnation of the teenage sleuth.

Martin will appear on The CW's remake that blends mystery, suspense, a supernatural element and a bit of horror. She got her big break on "The Hardy Boys/Nancy Drew Mysteries" with Shaun Cassidy and Parker Stevenson in the late 1970s.

Martin wrote a letter to Kennedy McMann, who at 22 is getting her big break on the remake a year after graduating from Carnegie Mellon University.

"It's, like, tear-stained. I cried when I read it," McMann told a TV critics gathering on Sunday. "It had a lot to do just with the industry and standing up for oneself and making your own decisions and how to kind of transition into a role like this and the repercussions of that in Hollywood. It was very thoughtful."

Martin quit the original after one season when her role was reduced with the merger of the two shows. But she was thrilled to be asked to appear in the remake.

"She came so prepared," director Larry Teng said. "She was a real huge contributor."

While some of the characters and mystery theme resemble the original, McMann's Nancy Drew has sex.

"We're making the show for The CW and that audience," executive producer Stephanie Savage said. "The little ones know that this show isn't for them, and they're going to have to wait until they're older."

Scott Wolf, who plays the sleuth's father, Carson, joked, "I was just hearing about this sex thing for the first time. We'll talk later."

McMann, the daughter of young adult author Lisa McMann, grew up reading the Nancy Drew series of books, but she didn't reread them in preparation for the role.

"I wanted to just be true and dedicate myself to the Nancy that we were creating," she said, "with all the knowledge that I already had to back up the historical relevance of her traits."

"Nancy Drew" debuts Oct. 9.

Ed Sheeran sets all-time highest-grossing tour record

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Ed Sheeran's Divide Tour is one for the record books.

Pollstar confirms the 28-year-old British singer's tour will set the all-time highest-grossing tour record with Friday's show in Hannover, Germany.

Pollstar forecasts the total gross to this point of $736.7 million will top the previous record of $735.4 million set by U2 in 2011.

In a statement, Sheeran calls it "amazing."

The Divide Tour launched on Mar. 16, 2017 and is due to end on Aug. 26. That's 893 days compared to the 760 days U2 spent on the road.

Sheeran

Sheeran's tour topped U2's attendance record of 7.3 million on May 24 in France with a total attendance of 7,315,970.

Sheeran released his "No.6 Collaborations Project" album in July, featuring collaborations with Justin Bieber, Stormzy, Eminem, 50 Cent and Bruno Mars.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Meghan McCain will talk family and politics in new audiobook

NEW YORK (AP)—Meghan McCain will share some thoughts about politics and her late father, Sen. John McCain, on an audiobook coming out next year. Audible.com announced Friday that McCain would offer a "blueprint" for conservative politics while also drawing on what she learned from her father, the war hero, Arizona Republican and 2008 presidential candidate. John McCain died last year at age 81. Meghan McCain is an author, a commentator and a co-host of "The View." Her book is currently untitled and does not yet have an exact release date. McCain's previous books include "My Dad, John McCain," a picture story published in 2008. Audible, a leading producer and distributor of audiobooks, is owned by Amazon.com.

Veteran 'Saturday Night Live' lighting designer dies at 96

LOS ANGELES (AP)—NBC says Emmy-winning lighting director Phil Hymes has died. He was 96. NBC said that Hymes died of complications from cancer at a New York City hospital on July 29. His early TV credits included "Your Hit Parade" and "The Steve Allen Show," and he joined "Saturday Night Live" in 1976. Hymes received an Emmy for his work on "SNL" in 2018, his last year with the NBC show. He occasionally appeared in its sketches, including in episodes hosted by Christopher Walken and Julia Louis-Dreyfus. He earned his other Emmy for 1965's "Hallmark Hall of Fame: The Magnificent Yankee." Hymes grew up on Long Island, New York, and served in the Army in World War II in both the European and Pacific theaters. His survivors include his three children.

Fox's Tomi Lahren apologizes for tweet on Kamala Harris

NEW YORK (AP)—Fox News personality Tomi Lahren is apologizing for an offensive tweet directed at Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris. Lahren hosts a show on the digital Fox Nation site and is a contributor to the TV network. She wrote on Wednesday about the California senator: "Kamala did you fight for ideals or did you sleep your way to the top with Willie Brown." Brown has acknowledged a relationship with Harris in the 1990s when he was speaker of the California Assembly. Harris was California attorney general from 2011 and was elected to the U.S. Senate in 2016. Lahren on Thursday apologized for "a wrong choice of words."

Eighth and final 'Homeland' season to debut February 2020

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Showtime says the eighth and final season of "Homeland" will debut in early 2020. The channel said on Friday that production on the acclaimed drama's last 12 episodes is underway. Former CIA agent Carrie struggled last season to uncover an international conspiracy to harm America's democratic institutions. The final season will open with Carrie, played by Claire Danes, recovering physically and mentally from her imprisonment in a Russian gulag. She's enlisted to help co-star Mandy Patinkin's Saul in a bid for peace in Afghanistan. Other cast members include Beau Bridges, Maury Sterling and Linus Roache. Showtime says the final season of "Homeland" will begin Feb. 9.

Ruby Rose's 'Batwoman' is TV's 1st out LGBTQ superhero

AP

Rachel Skarsten, from left, Ruby Rose and Meagan Tandy participate in The CW "Batwoman" panel during the Summer 2019 Television Critics Association Press Tour at the Beverly Hilton Hotel on Sunday, Aug. 4, 2019, in Beverly Hills, Calif.

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Ruby Rose suffered the slings and arrows from schoolmates about being different before the rise of social media.

The 33-year-old gender-fluid actress—who came out as a lesbian at age 12 in her native Australia—hopes her title role on The CW's new series "Batwoman" lets viewers know they're not alone.

It's the first TV series headlined by an out LGBTQ superhero.

Rose, who has said she is bipolar, believes society has come a long way in accepting different groups and says she is seeing greater representation of them on television.

At the same time, Rose told a TV critics gathering on Sunday that social media is "terrifying."

Rose says there's "a lot of pressure" on kids today and she wants young people to be able identify and relate to characters they're watching on "Batwoman."

'Riverdale' season premiere to honor memory of Luke Perry

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Luke Perry will be honored in the season premiere of "Riverdale," with his former "Beverly Hills, 90210" co-star Shannen Doherty guest starring.

Mark Pedowitz, president of The CW, told a TV critics meeting on Sunday that the episode is "a moving piece" and "a tribute to our friend and a well-respected actor."

Perry died in March at age 52 after a massive stroke. His death occurred in the middle of filming for season three and wasn't mentioned on the show. Producers opted until the season four premiere airing Oct. 9 to address what happened to Perry's character Fred Andrews, the father of Archie.

Molly Ringwald is expected to have a bigger role as Archie's mother.

Doherty stars in Fox's "BH90210" reboot series debuting Wednesday. It's expected to also honor Perry.

His mom says Bruce Springsteen's son is firefighter

JERSEY CITY, N.J. (AP)—His mom says Bruce Springsteen's son is becoming a firefighter in Jersey City.

Patti Scialfa on Thursday posted congratulations to their youngest child, Sam, on Instagram. She wrote that "you followed your dreams." She told her son to "stay safe" and "love your brave heart!"

The 25-year-old took the civil service exam to become a firefighter in New Jersey's second-largest city in March.

He has served as a volunteer firefighter in Colts Neck.

Springsteen and Scialfa have three children.

Dad's refusal to acknowledge illness puts nephews at risk

DEAR ABBY: My father is in his 70s and lives close by. My brother and his family live across the country. Dad has smoked for more than 60 years, and an incident with his high blood pressure recently landed him in the hospital. He's supposed to be on medication, but he refuses to take it.

He claims his hobby of playing the trumpet keeps his lungs healthy and recent changes in his diet have solved the blood pressure issues. Neither of these things seem likely to me, and he has not been back to the doctor. Dad hides his condition from everyone. I know only because I was the one who was called when he went to the hospital.

My brother recently told me Dad is planning to take my teenage nephews camping at a fairly remote location. When I encouraged Dad to tell my brother about his heart condition so he could make an informed decision about the safety of the trip, or at least prepare my nephews in case something happened, Dad went through the roof! He insists he's not sick and I have no business sharing his medical information. More likely he doesn't want to admit he's getting older or may have to cancel the trip.

I have to tell my brother if Dad won't, but if I do, I'm sure I'll never get more information, and Dad will quit talking to me altogether. Is there any way around this that I'm not seeing?

LEVELHEADED DAUGHTER IN DETROIT

DEAR DAUGHTER: The safety of your brother's children is paramount. Your father does not have the right to place them at risk, which he will because of his carelessness about his health situation. Your father may not like it, but it is imperative that you warn your brother so he can make an informed decision about whether to allow an unsupervised camping trip with Grandpa. (The solution may be that another adult will be included to keep an eye on things.)

DEAR ABBY: After I had emergency surgery, I was moved to another location in my work department. I met a wonderful young man and, as we communicated, we found we had a lot in common. I never imagined I'd ever find a soul mate, but we fell in love.

He is married; I am not. He is loving and considerate as much as he can be. I love him so much, but I feel terrible about our situation. I feel it is unfair—especially to me. I need more than he can give to me in terms of a relationship.

I know I have messed up. Again. I'd like to remain friends, but that's all. How do I tell him? I don't want to have drama on the job. I have been applying for other jobs away from this place. I thought that it would solve the problem.

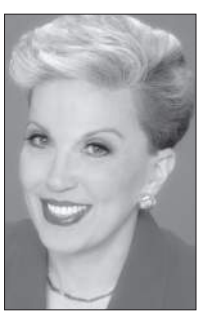
UNFAIR SITUATION

DEAR UNFAIR: Remaining "just friends" may not be realistic. Tell this wonderful young man the affair is over because it wasn't fair to you or his wife. Once you have secured another job, give your employer two weeks notice and get out of there.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

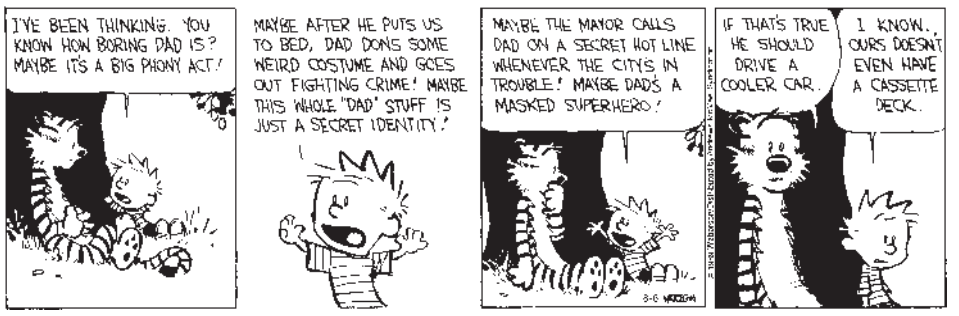


Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


I'VE BEEN THINKING. YOU KNOW HOW BORING DAD IS? MAYBE IT'S A BIG PHONY ACT!
MAYBE AFTER HE PUTS US TO BED, DAD DONS SOME WEIRD COSTUME AND GOES OUT FIGHTING CRIME! MAYBE THIS WHOLE "DAD" STUFF IS JUST A SECRET IDENTITY!
MAYBE THE MAYOR CALLS DAD ON A SECRET HOT LINE WHENEVER THE CITY'S IN TROUBLE! MAYBE DAD'S A MASKED SUPERHERO!
IF THAT'S TRUE HE SHOULD DRIVE A COOLER CAR.
I KNOW. OURS DOESN'T EVEN HAVE A CASSETTE DECK.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

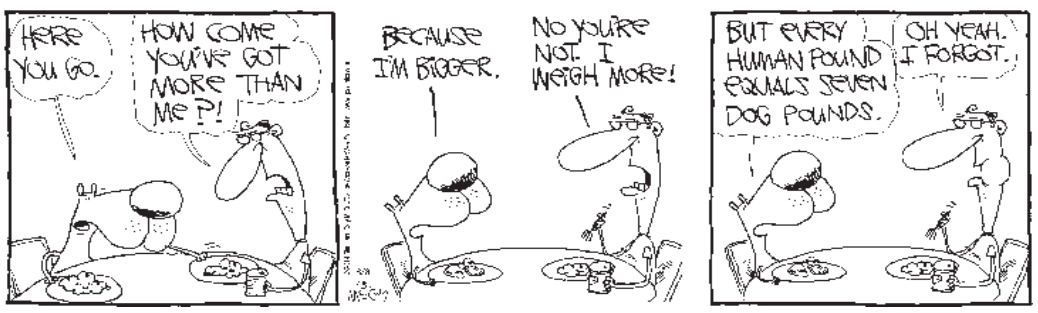
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

GUH! I NEED TO WRITE, BUT THERE'S JUST TOO MUCH STUFF IN MY BRAIN.
BILLS, ERRANDS, RANDOM SONG LYRICS, THE KIDS, PEEPS, THE GYM, STAYING HYDRATED, EATING HEALTHY...
SIP.
DID YOU SAY PEEPS?
I FOUND A BOX IN THE CABINET AND THEY'RE ONLY HALF STALE.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


HERE YOU GO.
HOW COME YOU'VE GOT MORE THAN ME?!
BECAUSE I'M BIGGER.
NO YOU'RE NOT. I WEIGH MORE!
BUT EVERY HUMAN POUND EQUALS SEVEN DOG POUNDS.
OH YEAH. I FORGOT.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Poet Angelou
5 And so on (Abbr.)
8 Poet Teasdale
12 Shortly
13 Ultra-modernist
14 Help a hood
15 Islam-abad's country
17 Bump into
18 Fr. holy woman
19 1040 org.
20 Papa
21 Weep
22 Knightly address
23 Indian metropolis
26 Advanced study group
30 China setting
31 "Shoo!"
32 O'Hara estate
33 "Have courage!"
35 Tall and thin
36 Meadow
37 Skillet
38 Talk a blue streak?
41 Bando of baseball
42 Here, in Dijon
45 "Troy" actor Brad
46 Many a Braves or Falcons fan
48 Forearm bone
49 Prompt
50 "Dream on!"
51 Campus VIP
52 "Big Little Lies" airer
53 U2 lead singer

DOWN

1 Atlas pages
2 Body sci.
3 Oxen's burden
4 Blackbird
5 Doorway
6 Herbal drinks
7 Anti
8 Charitable person
9 Sleeping
10 Oboe insert
11 Lawyer (Abbr.)
16 Voice in an iPhone
20 Badly lit
21 Fraud
22 Fixed
23 Apply cream
24 Compass pt.
25 Freedom, for short
26 Take to court
27 Indian bread
28 Noah's vessel
29 TV's Romano
31 Eggs
34 — Lingus
35 Chorus syllables
37 Opposite of neo-
38 Tater
39 Sly trick
40 Sicilian volcano
41 Ticket half
42 "You never had — good!"
43 First son
44 Data
46 German cry
47 Catch red-handed

Solution time: 22 mins.

S	N	L			A	S	K		B	A	C	H
L	E	A	Γ		B	O	A		A	C	R	E
A	M	O	P		C	B	B		C	H	O	Y
B	O	S	O	M		S	O	A	K			
			K	A	E		B	L	E	W		T
V	E	R	T	I	G	O		A	N	O	D	E
I	T	O	F		G	R	Π		R	O	N	
S	A	L	O	N		B	A	R	R	E	L	S
A	L	L	W	E	T		P	E	A			
			S	W	A	M		O	N	C	U	E
J	I	V	E		X	E	S		C	O	N	K
E	L	I	A		I	W	O		E	I	I	E
I	E	N	I		S	S	S			E	O	S

Yesterday's answer 8-6

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12				■	13			■	14			
15				16				■	17			
18			■	19			■	20				
■	■	■	21			■	22			■	■	■
23	24	25			■	26				27	28	29
30				■	31			■	32			
33				34			■	35				
■	■	■	36			■	37			■	■	■
38	39	40			■	41			■	42	43	44
45				■	46				47			
48				■	49			■	50			
51				■	52			■	53			

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Vera Farmiga, 46; Geri Halliwell, 47; M. Night Shyamalan, 49; Michelle Yeoh, 57.

Happy Birthday: Look at situations practically this year. Some changes need to be made if you want to achieve your goals. Consider your objectives, and formulate a plan that will help you put a strategy in place that is solid and inspires you to follow through. It's up to you to do the work required to reach your objective. Your numbers are 7, 11, 15, 21, 28, 36, 44.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Put the past behind you, and move in a direction that is filled with learning and doing things that enhance your life. Participation will help ease whatever stress you are dealing with. Redirect your energy, and embrace life with enthusiasm. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* If you don't like something, change it. Explore your options, say what's on your mind and do what's necessary to eliminate whatever is causing stress in your life. An unexpected emotional incident will push you to make a hasty decision. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Take care of matters that are holding you back. Taking action will be liberating and help you eliminate emotional stress that is stopping you from enjoying your personal life. A change at home will improve your situation. Romance is encouraged. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Address issues that have been bothering you. Once you hear what others have to say, it will help you make the right decision. Sometimes letting go is the gateway to peace and new beginnings. Adjust and proceed. ✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Love who you are, and do what you do best. Don't let the changes others make throw you off your game. Concentrate on making the most of whatever situation you find yourself in, and you'll achieve your expectations. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Take care of pressing matters that concern your personal assets, possessions or health. Common sense and expert advice will help bring about a positive change that will contribute to a healthier and less stressful lifestyle. Incorporate positive changes into your daily routine. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Add structure to your life, and minimize letting others take advantage of you. There will be a fine line between being helpful and being taken for granted. Do what you can for others, but take care of your needs first. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Avoid taking anyone or anything for granted. An unexpected change is apparent. Staying on top of what's going on around you will be vital if you want to come out ahead. Use intelligence, knowledge and experience to reach your objective. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Don't let someone from your past meddle in your life. Promote what you want to do, not what someone is trying to pressure you into. A personal gain will be the most satisfying. Celebrate your success with someone you love. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* A change may not be what you expect, but it will end up being in your best interest. Keep your money separate and your possessions and important papers in a safe place. Joint endeavors will not turn out as planned. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Offer an alternative point of view, but don't support someone with a plan that you know is a bad idea. Concentrate on your own issues, not trying to help someone who isn't willing to listen to good advice. ✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Participate in something you believe in, and you will make a difference. A financial deal or contract, or reconnecting with someone you've enjoyed working with in the past will bring about a favorable change to the way you handle money. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are go-getting, extravagant and benevolent. You are passionate and meandering.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			6			9		
			1	7		3	4	
	4	2					8	
8	2							
6			8		5			2
					9			7
9					4	3		
2	1		5	7				
	6			2				

Difficulty Level ★★ 8/06

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

3	8	1	2	9	6	5	4	7
2	7	5	8	4	1	6	9	3
6	9	4	7	3	5	2	8	1
4	3	7	9	2	8	1	5	6
5	1	9	4	6	3	8	7	2
8	6	2	5	1	7	4	3	9
9	5	6	1	7	4	3	2	8
7	4	3	6	8	2	9	1	5
1	2	8	3	5	9	7	6	4

Difficulty Level ★ 8/06

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

SOCIALIZING Solution: 11 letters

S	S	O	M	H	U	M	O	R	E	U	N	I	O	N
A	H	A	T	L	U	S	N	O	C	A	R	E	E	R
C	E	A	C	E	T	I	V	N	I	R	I	A	S	L
Ⓣ	C	A	R	E	T	N	I	Y	O	M	N	P	T	K
I	Ⓐ	E	A	E	D	I	L	T	V	O	E	U	R	S
V	Y	Ⓛ	L	I	S	I	N	E	I	A	F	O	O	T
I	Y	E	Ⓚ	I	M	E	B	T	K	O	W	R	P	O
T	T	G	E	A	M	A	A	A	O	T	E	G	S	R
Y	I	A	F	G	B	S	D	D	E	F	A	C	L	Y
N	N	G	I	B	R	L	I	N	P	U	T	S	I	A
A	U	N	L	E	A	I	S	E	K	O	J	E	S	D
P	M	E	V	U	S	G	N	I	T	U	O	M	T	I
M	M	N	G	A	T	H	E	R	I	N	G	A	E	L
O	O	H	T	W	O	R	G	F	I	A	H	G	N	O
C	C	E	Y	E	C	O	N	T	A	C	T	S	O	H

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Activity, Babble, Cafe, Career, Chat, Community, Company, Consult, Conversation, Date, Engage, Eye Contact, Family, Food, Friend, Games, Gathering, Grin, Group, Growth, Holiday, Host, Humor, Idea, Input, Interact, Invite, Jokes, Laugh, Life, Listen, Mentor, Network, Outings, Reunion, Share, Silly, Smile, Speak, Sport, Story, Talk, Team, Voice

Yesterday's Answer: Majority

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 38, 40, and 42 through 56, order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

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Contact person: Wilfredo Francisco

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DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Compute, classify, and record numerical data to keep financial records complete. Perform any combination of routine calculating, posting, and verifying duties to obtain primary financial data for use in maintaining accounting records. May also check the accuracy of figures, calculations, and postings pertaining to business transactions recorded by other workers. Operate computers programmed with accounting software to record, store, and analyze information. Check figures, postings, and documents for correct entry, mathematical accuracy, and proper codes. Comply with federal, state, and company policies, procedures, and regulations. Operate 10-key calculators, typewriters, and copy machines to perform calculations and produce documents. Receive, record, and bank cash, checks, and vouchers.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- High School Graduate or its equivalence;
- At least 24 months experience in bookkeeping, accounting or auditing clerk; &
- Must be knowledgeable in operating PC, adding machine, electric typewriter, accounting software such as QuickBooks and/or PeachTree.

All interested applicants can submit resume at richel@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –marianaslabor.net.

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Joey P. San Nicolas
Attorney-at-Law
San Nicolas Law Office, LLC
2nd Floor, ICCI Bldg. Rm. 203
Chalan Pale Arnold, Gualo Rai
PMB 602, PPP Box 10,001
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7659
Fax: (670) 234-9218
Email: jpsn@sannicolaslaw.net

Attorney for Administrator
Henry H. San Nicolas

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: JOSE P. SAN NICOLAS Decedent.) Civil Action No.: 13-0188) **NOTICE OF HEARING**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for Final Distribution in the above-entitled probate matter will be heard before the Honorable Joseph N. Camacho, Associate Judge on the 15th day of August, 2019, at 10:00 a.m. at the Marianas Business Plaza, Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing.

Dated this 27th day of July, 2019.

SAN NICOLAS LAW OFFICE, LLC
Attorney for Petitioner

/s/: JP San Nicolas
JOEY P. SAN NICOLAS, Esq

Joey P. San Nicolas
Attorney-at-Law
San Nicolas Law Office, LLC
2nd Floor, Island Commercial Center, Ste. 203
Chalan Pale Arnold, Gualo Rai
PMB 602, PPP Box 10,001
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7659
Fax: (670) 234-9218
Email: jpsn@sannicolaslaw.net

Attorney for Petitioner
Margarita Torres Flores

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: EDWARD MENDIOLA FLEMING, Decedent.) Civil Action No.: 19-0048) **NOTICE OF HEARING**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for Final Distribution in the above-entitled probate matter will be heard before the Honorable Joseph N. Camacho, Associate Judge on the 15th day of August, 2019, at 10:00 a.m. at the Marianas Business Plaza, Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing.

Dated this 28th day of July, 2019.

SAN NICOLAS LAW OFFICE, LLC
Attorney for Petitioner

/s/: JP San Nicolas
JOEY P. SAN NICOLAS, Esq (F-0342)

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2nd Floor Arrival Bldg.
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SPECIAL AIRPORT FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Commonwealth Ports Authority hereby gives notice that the Board Airport Facilities Committee (AFC) will be holding a special meeting on Thursday, August 8, 2019, at 9:30 a.m. in the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) Classroom located at the Airport Fire Station at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport on Saipan.

AGENDA

A. Preliminary Matter:
   1. Roll Call
   2. Adoption of Agenda
   3. Adoption of Minutes – June 25, 2019
B. Public Comment(s)
C. Old Business:
   1. Francisco C. Ada / Saipan International Airport RFP Concession Status
D. New Business:
   1. Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport RFP Concession
E. Executive Session (if needed)
F. Announcements
G. Adjournment

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. A time limit will be imposed for oral testimony.

Barrie C. Toves, AFC Chairman

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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- With computer skills required
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REQUIREMENTS:
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KOREA TOURISM INC
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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Judge, Yanks pound Red Sox for 4-game sweep

AP
New York Yankees pitcher J.A. Happ, right, gets the out on Boston Red Sox's Rafael Devers during the third inning of a baseball game Sunday, Aug. 4, 2019, in New York.

NEW YORK (AP)—A couple of things have remained constant for the New York Yankees all season: They keep getting hurt and they keep winning games.

Aaron Judge and Gio Urshela homered early as a makeshift Yankees lineup pounded David Price in a 7-4 victory Sunday night that sent the defending World Series champion Boston Red Sox to their eighth consecutive defeat.

But no pleasure comes without pain for the AL East leaders these days. All-Star second baseman Gleyber Torres was lifted in the late innings because of a core issue and sent to the hospital for tests. Urshela was replaced at third base in the ninth, a few innings after fouling a ball hard off each leg in a span of three pitches.

"It's been a crazy year in that way, with the amount of things that have happened to guys physically," manager Aaron Boone said. "But it's also been something that's been a real rallying cry for us."

X-rays on Urshela were negative but he had wraps on both legs after the game. He said he was feeling better and planned to travel with the team to Baltimore.

With only three projected regulars in the batting order, the banged-up Yankees won their fifth straight and completed the first four-game sweep of their longtime rivals since August 2009. New York (72-39) maintained its eight-game division lead over Tampa Bay and dropped the third-place Red Sox a whopping 14 1/2 behind — not to mention 6 1/2 games out of a playoff spot.

"That's what we're supposed to do. We're a first-place team," Judge said. "We just went out there and took care of business. It doesn't matter who we play."

Boston has lost eight in a row for the first time since an eight-game skid in July 2015.

"Overall, a horrible week," manager Alex Cora said. "There's no doubt in my mind these guys can turn it around."

Handed a 7-0 lead after three innings, J.A. Happ (9-6) improved to 10-4 against the Red Sox, who finished 1-8 in the Bronx this year and are 4-11 in the season series. He beat Price (7-5) in a matchup of starting pitchers who just came off paternity leave.

Indians 6, Angels 2

In Cleveland, Shane Bieber became the first pitcher this season to throw three complete games, leading the Indians over the Angels for a three-game sweep.

Bieber (11-4) allowed five hits, struck out eight and walked none. Bieber, the All-Star Game MVP, is 9-2 in his last 15 starts.

Cleveland is 37-15 since June 4, the best record in the major leagues in that span. After trailing by as many as 11½ games in early June, the Indians started Sunday three games back of AL Central-leading Minnesota.

Astros 3, Mariners 1

In Houston, Justin Verlander struck out 10 in another dominant Astros pitching performance, and the Astros completed a three-game sweep.

A day after Astros newcomer Aaron Sanchez and three relievers combined on a no-hitter, Verlander (15-4) took over the major league wins lead and left with an AL-best 2.68 ERA.

Roberto Osuna worked the ninth for his 25th save. The victory improved Houston to 12-1 against Seattle this season and 38-12 against the AL West.

Mets 13, Pirates 2

In Pittsburgh, Mets star Robinson Canó appears headed back to the injured list after straining his left hamstring, an injury that overshadowed Noah Syndergaard's sparkling outing.

Canó singled in the fourth inning for his third hit of the game and ninth hit in his last 15 at-bats. He pulled up after rounding first and grabbed at the back of his leg.

Syndergaard (8-5) allowed three hits, singled twice and pitched shutout ball into the seventh.

Athletics 4, Cardinals 2

In Oakland, Tanner Roark pitched five innings to get the win in his Oakland debut.

Jurickson Profar connected for his 15th homer as the A's won for the sixth time in seven games. Dustin Garneau had two hits and two RBIs after he was claimed off waivers Saturday.

St. Louis fell 1½ games back of NL Central-leading Chicago, which swept Milwaukee with a 7-2 victory.

Dodgers 11, Padres 10

In Los Angeles, Max Muncy's fourth hit was a game-ending, two-run double, and the Dodgers rallied from a late three-run deficit for a wild victory.

Muncy had a homer and two doubles while driving in three runs. Four Dodgers added two RBIs apiece as the NL West leaders took three of four from San Diego with a huge comeback at Chavez Ravine.

Pedro Baez (6-2) pitched the ninth for the win.

Rays 7, Marlins 2

In St. Petersburg, Yonny Chirinos allowed one run in five innings before leaving with a hand injury, and Tampa Bay matched its longest winning streak this season at six games.

Chirinos (9-5) gave up two hits but was pulled after 63 pitches due to right middle finger inflammation. Diego Castillo, Colin Poche and Andrew Kittredge finished a six-hitter.

Mike Brosseau and Jesus Aguilar homered for the Rays, who also won six in a row from May 25-30.

Twins 3, Royals 0

In Minneapolis, Devin Smeltzer pitched two-hit ball into the seventh inning for his first major league win, and Minnesota finished off a three-game sweep.

Jason Castro homered and Eddie Rosario drove in two runs for the Twins, who maintained their three-game lead over Cleveland in the AL Central.

Smeltzer (1-1) struck out four and walked one in his third career start. Sergio Romo pitched a scoreless eighth, and Taylor Rogers finished the two-hitter for his 17th save in 23 chances.

Rockies 6, Giants 2

In Denver, Kyle Freeland earned his first win in nearly four months and Nolan Arenado homered twice for Colorado.

Trevor Story homered for the fifth straight game against San Francisco. It's tied for the longest home run streak against an opponent in Rockies history.

Donovan Solano went deep twice for the Giants, the first to lead off the game and again in the third inning off Freeland (3-9). He nearly had a third when he drove a ball to the wall in right in the fifth inning that was caught.

Cubs 7, Brewers 2

In Chicago, Jason Heyward drove in three runs, Yu Darvish pitched five effective innings and the Cubs finished a three-game sweep.

Heyward and Kyle Schwarber homered as the NL Central leaders won for the 11th time in 13 games at Wrigley Field.

Christian Yelich hit his major league-best 37th homer for Milwaukee, which has dropped four straight and six of seven.

Milwaukee rookie Trent Grisham picked up his first major league hit in the first and his first homer in the eighth. He went 3 for 4 in his third big league game.

Diamondbacks 7, Nationals 5

In Phoenix, Ketel Marte hit an inside-the-park home run off former Arizona ace Patrick Corbin, and Adam Jones drove in four runs for the Diamondbacks.

Marte's third-inning line drive got by diving center fielder Gerardo Parra and rolled to the wall, near the 413-foot mark in left-center. Marte beat a high throw to home plate, eluding the tag by catcher Yan Gomes, for a solo homer and a 4-2 lead.

Jones broke a 5-all tie with a two-run single off Wander Suero (3-6) with two outs in the seventh.

White Sox 10, Phillies 5

In Philadelphia, Leury Garcia hit a grand slam and Eloy Jiménez added a three-run shot, powering the White Sox to the victory.

The Phillies are still in the NL wild-card hunt but lost two of three at home to the below-.500 White Sox. Not even appearances by Chase Utley, Ryan Howard, Pedro Martinez and the rest of the 2009 NL champions could inspire the Phillies and they trailed all the way against Reynaldo Lopez (6-9) and three relievers.

Tim Anderson also homered for Chicago, and Ryan Goins had two hits and scored twice.

Reds 6, Braves 4, 10 innings

In Atlanta, Tucker Barnhart hit a tiebreaking three-run homer in the 10th inning off new Atlanta closer Shane Greene.

A day after blowing a save chance in his Braves debut, Greene (0-1) gave up four hits and three runs in one inning.

Atlanta star Ronald Acuña Jr. hit a tying two-run homer in the ninth off Amir Garrett, thumping his chest and yelling at the Braves' dugout as he flung his bat while leaving the batter's box.

Rangers 9, Tigers 4

In Arlington, Willie Calhoun hit a tiebreaking three-run triple in the seventh inning, helping the Rangers finish a three-game sweep.

Calhoun pulled a 2-0 pitch from Nick Ramirez just inside the right-field line and into the corner. Calhoun later scored on a wild pitch.

José Cisnero (0-3) walked the first two batters of the seventh and was replaced by Ramirez with two outs.

Rafael Montero (1-0) closed with 2 1/3 scoreless innings for his first major league win since September 2017 with the New York Mets.

Orioles 6, Blue Jays 5

In Baltimore, Trey Mancini drove in two runs and Baltimore took advantage of a wild major league debut by Toronto reliever Yennsy Diaz.

Mancini has 15 RBIs in 13 games against Toronto this season.

The Orioles won a mistake-prone game with wild pitches, misplayed balls, costly walks and baserunning errors.

Tom Eshelman (1-2) earned his first major league win after allowing four runs and eight hits over five innings. Shawn Armstrong picked up his fourth save.

Brady signs 2-year, $70M extension with Pats

Tom Brady has never known what it's like to play out the final season of a contract in his 20-year NFL career, and the New England Patriots superstar quarterback isn't about to find out.

Brady, who turned 42 on Saturday, is signing a two-year, $70 million extension that runs through 2021 and includes a hefty raise this season, a person with knowledge of the deal told The Associated Press.

The person, speaking to the AP on condition of anonymity Sunday because the Patriots hadn't announced the extension, confirmed the NFL Network's report on Brady's contract.

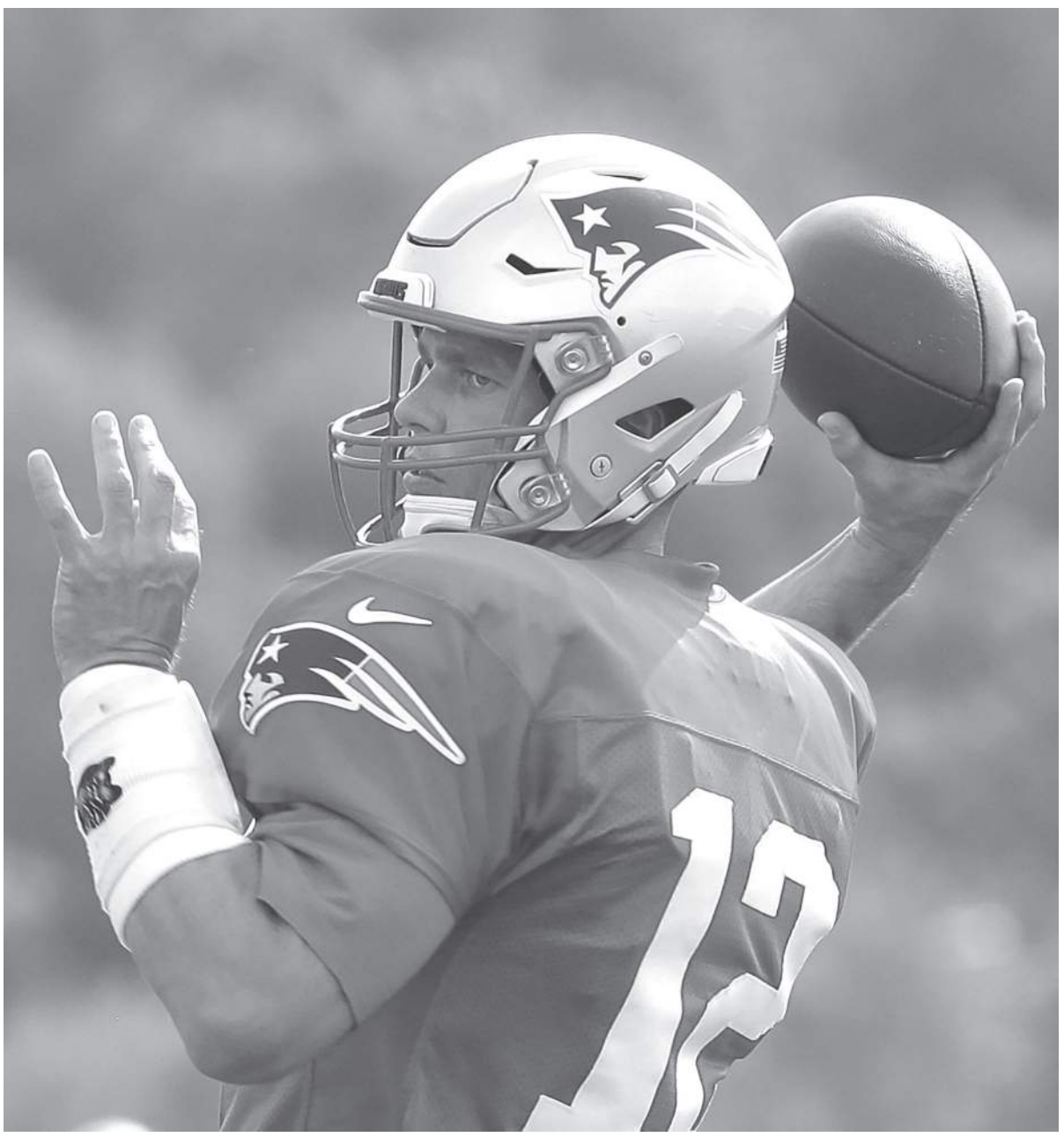
Brady will get an $8 million raise in 2019, when he'll make $23 million. The extension also calls for him to make $30 million in 2020 and $32 million in 2021, when he would be 44.

Brady, who led the Patriots to a 13-3 win over the Los Angeles Rams in Super Bowl 53, is one of just four players to win six NFL titles. The others all played for Vince Lombardi's mighty Green Bay Packers teams in the 1960s: Hall of Famers Herb Adderley and Forrest Gregg and their teammate, Fuzzy Thurston

Adderley, 80, told the AP earlier this year that he believes it will take another 100 years for someone else to join the exclusive club, although he figures Brady will make it a moot point with a seventh ring before he decides to retire.

"Oh yes, indeed. He has a shot at it as long as he plays," Adderley said.

Brady and the Patriots open defense of their latest Super Bowl title against Pittsburgh on Sept. 8. Usually, the champion kicks off the season but that honor goes to Green Bay and Chicago this year as the NFL celebrates its 100th season.



AP

New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady winds up to pass during an NFL football training camp practice, Thursday, Aug. 1, 2019, in Foxborough, Mass.

RB Riddick to Broncos

Meanwhile, in Colorado, blindsided by the Lions , running back Theo Riddick became an unexpected free agent just as training camps were opening across the NFL.

He landed in Denver and signed a one-year, $2.5 million contract with the Broncos on Sunday, eight days after his surprising release from Detroit.

A valuable pass catcher with 285 career receptions, Riddick drew interest from several teams and met with the Saints. But he chose the Broncos "because they're going to utilize my talents and my strengths" and experience, Riddick said.

"We've got a young room, very talented, but hopefully I can help them out," said Riddick, who spent part of his first practice Sunday doling out tips to second-year running backs Phillip Lindsay and Royce Freeman.

He also flashed some of those great hands that have allowed him to top 50 receptions four years in a row .

"Oh yeah, he looked real smooth today," cornerback Chris Harris Jr. said. "I didn't see him run the ball more than (just) catching the rock out of the backfield and running routes. But he's definitely going to be another threat at running back that we need."

Riddick said he's thrilled to team up with Vic Fangio after facing him the last four years in the NFC North when the Broncos' rookie head coach was directing Chicago's stingy defense.

"It's awesome, man, because that defense there, especially as of late, has been pretty darn dominant," Riddick said.

In Denver, Riddick is reunited with running backs coach Curtis Modkins, who was his position coach in Detroit during his first three seasons in the NFL.

Modkins helped mold Riddick from a wide receiver and sixth-round draft pick out of Notre Dame in 2013 into a pass-catching running back, one who caught a whopping 80 passes for 697 yards and three touchdowns in 2015.

"So, to line up with him again," Riddick said, "it's going to be another fun ride."

Riddick was second on the Lions last season with 61 catches for 384 yards. He also rushed for 171 yards on 40 carries.

Since entering the league, Riddick ranks among the league leaders by a running back with 14 TD receptions, 285 catches and 2,238 receiving yards.

But the Lions moved on from one of their mainstays in their backfield to make room for defensive lineman Mike Daniels, who was cut by the Green Bay Packers on the eve of their training camp.

Asked if he was blindsided by his release from the Lions, Riddick said: "I was, to be honest with you, but it's the name of the game. It was no shock to me. But it just kind of sparks that fire in you.

"And it's lit."

In other developments, running back D'Onta Foreman has been released by the Houston Texans.

Foreman, who was a third-round pick in 2017, appeared in just one game last season after rupturing his Achilles tendon late in his rookie year.

The Doak Walker Award winner played 10 games including one start as a rookie, finishing with 78 carries for 327 yards and two touchdowns.

The move leaves the Texans with very little experience at running back behind starter Lamar Miller, which could have them looking to sign a player to compete to back him up.

Also Sunday, the team signed linebacker Gimel President after he was waived by the Titans earlier this week. It's President's second stint with the Texans after he appeared in four games for them in 2017.

Colangelo: No angst as US enters World Cup camp

LAS VEGAS (AP)—USA Basketball managing director Jerry Colangelo said Sunday that he is not worried about the Americans' chances as they begin preparations for the FIBA World Cup, even after a wildly unpredictable process was needed just to fill a training-camp roster for the tournament that starts in China at the end of the month.

"Honestly, I don't have any angst," Colangelo said.

After what the two-time defending World Cup champion Americans have been through just to get to camp, that's a very good sign.

It took more than 50 invitations—and probably that many revisions of plans—to get to Sunday, the day where 15 members of the current national team arrived in Las Vegas for meetings and final preparations before the first training camp practice under new USA Basketball coach Gregg Popovich starts Monday.

Also in Las Vegas: 14 more NBA players on an enhanced practice squad known as the select team, and it's a very real possibility that some of those players— Sacramento's De'Aaron Fox and Brooklyn's Joe Harris, both of whom will practice with the national team on Monday probably foremost among them—will get a good look at moving up to the national team and potentially going to China for the World Cup.

"We're going to have some fun," Colangelo said.

It'll likely be a young group going to China, no matter who is on the plane. USA Basketball said at least six of the 12 players on the last three World Cup rosters were 24 or younger at the time, and that looks like it could be the case again. Of the 15 players on the national team now, six are 24 are younger

Miami Heat center Bam Adebayo said after arriving in Las Vegas on Sunday that he didn't hesitate when he got the call inquiring about whether he'd want to play.

"I was like, 'Who would say no to this chance?'" the 22-year-old Adebayo said.

Popovich has said finalizing a 12-man roster for China won't be easy. Then again, he likely wasn't counting on this much attrition.

This process of building a team for China started last year with 35 players being added to the selection pool for the World Cup and next year's Tokyo Olympics. Of those 35, 30 have already withdrawn from World Cup consideration for a variety of reasons—pending fatherhood, injury rehabilitation, filming a movie, preparing for the potential of a long NBA season. The World Cup will end on Sept. 15, meaning the U.S. players, if they made the medal round, would get home about two weeks before NBA camps open.

More than a dozen other names were officially added to the national team list along the way, with two of those players dropping out already as well. Others like New Orleans' J.J. Redick were invited but declined even before being formally added to the list.

Add it all up, and there have been at least 52 players under real consideration in the last year and a half. That doesn't include the select-teamers, others who were considered for that squad like New Orleans rookie and No. 1 overall draft pick Zion Williamson (who declined)—or the 52 G League players who went through 12 qualifying games needed to get the U.S. into the World Cup.

"The focus has to be on who's here—not who's not here," Colangelo said. "A number of the young players in this group have a chance, a real chance, some of them to make this team, some of them to make an impact in the World Cup."

Meanwhile, Kyle Lowry of the NBA champion Toronto Raptors is in Las Vegas, but still has not been cleared to play following thumb surgery. He's scheduled to meet with doctors in the coming days and hopes to participate when the second part of camp shifts to El Segundo, California, next week. The team will practice Monday through Thursday, then scrimmage Friday.

Messi suspended after remarks on corruption

ASUNCION, Paraguay (AP)— Soccer body CONMEBOL suspended Lionel Messi from international matches with Argentina for three months because of accusations of corruption he made at the latest Copa América.

The South American body also said Friday that it fined the superstar in $50,000 for his comments after Argentina's 2-1 win against Chile in the third-place playoff of the tournament in July.

Messi and Argentina can still appeal the decision, which stops the striker from playing in four friendlies this year.

The 32-year-old will not play for Argentina matches in September against Chile and Mexico, plus another two in October against Germany and another adversary to be picked.

Neither Messi nor Argentina's soccer association has made comments about CONMEBOL's decision.

The Argentinian also said the tournament was set for hosts Brazil to win.

Messi had already complained against Copa América refereeing after Argentina's 2-0 loss to Brazil in the semifinals.

When asked if he feared being suspended for his comments, he said "the truth needed to be told."

Messi later sent an apology to CONMEBOL for his remarks.

AP

In this Saturday, July 6, 2019 photo, Argentina's Lionel Messi, center left, and Chile's Gary Medel, center right, scuffle as referee Mario Diaz, from Paraguay, left, shows the red card to both of them during the Copa America third-place soccer match at the Arena Corinthians in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Deeper meaning

Meanwhile, the ban doesn't matter that much anyway, despite its length; Argentina won't play another competitive game until World Cup qualifying kicks off next year.

Still, three months for comments that came in the heat of the moment after yet another crushing loss for the Albiceleste at a major event? That's crazy given recent history. After all, it's not like Messi's charge happened in a vacuum.

Back in 2015, after the FBI indicted sitting CONMEBOL president Juan Angel Napout and a dozen other high-ranking South American soccer officials, any claim that "corruption and the referees are preventing people from enjoying the football and they're ruining it a bit" would've been indisputable.

Maybe Messi was wrong to say such a thing in 2019. But was he really wrong wrong? The accusation isn't that shocking given CONMEBOL's shameful recent past. The body has tried to clean up its image over the last few years, sure. How much it's actually cleaned up its act is harder to discern. What's clear is that it absolutely doesn't deserve the benefit of the doubt.

- CONMEBOL -

Which is why the severity of Messi's ban could be viewed as reinforcing his point. The punishment seems intended to send a message more than anything else, just like the phantom red card Messi received a few days after speaking out in Copa America's third-place match, apparently for being pushed repeatedly (without retaliating) by Chile's Gary Medel. Given how CONMEBOL has treated Messi, do you think any other player will be eager to speak out?

Messi's words seemed tinged with frustration more than anything else. The outburst felt similar to one Messi offered after the 2016 Copa America Centenario final, when the living legend abruptly announced his retirement from the national team, citing weariness with the perennial tire fire that is the Argentine Football Federation. He was right about that one. FIFA charged AFA president Luis Segura with fraud the following day.

Messi returned to the international game a few months later. Now, you have to wonder why he would even want to continue. Playing for his country has long seemed like a burden for the 32-year-old. After reaching three straight major finals between 2014 and 2016 and losing them all before failing to reach the Copa finale this summer, it's become obvious that whatever window of opportunity there was for Messi to hoist a trophy while wearing the blue-and-white-striped shirt has all but slammed shut for good.

Maybe CONMEBOL would be happy if Messi walked away. Either they don't know or don't care how lucky they are that Messi, who could've represented his adopted homeland of Spain at the highest level, decided to pull on the No. 10 jersey that Diego Maradona once wore instead.

But then Messi has always carried himself with a sense of duty. He knows full well how powerful his platform is, and he only speaks out when he believes it necessary. That's called integrity. Four years after being exposed as perhaps the most corrupt organization in the history of sports, it's a quality the supposedly cleaned-up CONMEBOL still seems to severely lack.

DOCOMO

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Mawati, however, remained in contention in the fourth canto, as Frank Ferrer closed the regulation with 5 consecutive markers.

Ferrer also had the last say for Mawati in the extension, but Deleon Guerrero was there to save the day for Docomo, as he knocked in the team's first two baskets and had one more in the closing seconds of the overtime period.

Ferrer tallied 16 points on a losing effort, while Raymond Velasco added 14, but was scoreless in the extra time where Mawati was held to two field goals.

In the other game last Thursday, RNV Construction won its debut in the Tsingtao Beer sponsored-league after dominating Max's Restaurant, 67-49.

RNV Construction limited Max's to single digit in scoring in the first and third quarters en route to the 18-point victory.

Andy Mortos nearly matched Max's output in the first canto when he drilled 6 points in their 14-8 advantage. Mortos added 8 more markers in the second frame to extend their lead at the break, 33-20. RNV then pulled away further, as Max's managed to score only 8 points anew in the third quarter. RNV almost doubled Max's production by the end of the third canto, 46-28, and the latter never made headway to cut the deficit to a decent number in the final frame.

Mortos top-scored for RNV with his 22 points.

TENNIS

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know that there are some real obstacles to overcome. One is that it can't be done without having the tennis courts at American Memorial Park resurfaced. That money would most likely have to come from the Park's trust fund," Race said.

"Two is that money would have to be found to stage the event. This could come from any combination of donations, sponsors and the government," he added.

The CNMI Sports Hall of Famer added that tournament schedule is also a concern.

"We need to find a way to condense or adapt the tennis competition into fewer days. This could actually be the biggest hurdle as we just barely completed the Samoa tennis events in 15 days, while the 2021 Games is scheduled to take place over only one week. We're considering some strategies to work towards that," Race said.

The first day of the tennis competition in Samoa along with some playoff matches were rained-out, forcing players to have three to four games in a day. The CNMI's Colin Sinclair played four matches in the final day and more than 10 in the last three days.

Race also said he understands the funding issues for the Mini Games, but we also have to look at the positive things that the sport and the improved facilities can bring to the community.

"I think that leaders in sports and government have to ask themselves if overcoming these obstacles is worth the benefits, which include motivating all of our young tennis players, including national team members, to keep striving even harder; bringing more people into a super healthy, fun and challenging activity; having our facilities needed to support this healthy sport that is promoting success in so many ways, upgraded; and last but not the least, bringing potentially the most medals to our home country in the 2021 Games," Race said.

For the past years, tennis players have brought honors to the Commonwealth and several of them manage to continue their education through athletic scholarships. The presence of regular tennis tournaments in the CNMI has also provided our youth after-school activities and allowed them to compete in prestigious off-island events.

Meanwhile, Minogue said that although there is no timeframe to the final list of sports in the 2021 Mini Games, additions could be made next year during the PGC general assembly that will be held on Saipan.

MISTER

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were busy for the XVI Pacific Games in Samoa.

The MHS senior was a steady presence in the net for the Dolphins, who dominated the elimination round to gain the top seeding in the playoffs. Then in the championship round, Mister used his ceiling to intimidate the smaller, but quicker Tinian High School players. Tinian won Game 1 of the finals, but failed to complete the upset when Mister and company regrouped and prevailed in the deciding Game 2. Mister teamed up with Jerico Castro and Bailey Spaeth in manning the net for the Dolphins.

After his success in the interscholastic league, Logan continued playing and training with his father, Tyce. The Misters represented the CNMI in the XVI Pacific Games in Samoa, making history in the event as the first father-and-son tandem to compete in beach volleyball. In the Pacific Games, Logan and Tyce played against Papua New Guinea, Kiribati, and Tuvalu.

Meanwhile, NMSA is calling all its members to coordinate with the groups in charge of the CNMI Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans for 2019-2024. SCORP could help sports federation seeking improvement with their respective facilities.

SCORP, through the Horsley Witten Group, Inc. and Koa Consulting LLC , is holding a series of workshops to allow the public and other stakeholders to provide inputs on improvements and addition to infrastructures in the Commonwealth. The workshop was held on Saipan yesterday, while Rota and Tinian sessions are set for today and on Thursday, respectively. For more information, visit www.cnmi-scorp.com.

2019 IT&E Taga Kids & Sprints Triathlon

PONCE COROTAN

From left, third placer Lovel Spaeth, runner-up Leilani Ruszala, and champion Scarlett Burrell pose with their medals and prizes during the awards ceremony for the 2019 IT&E Taga Kids & Sprints Triathlon last Sunday at the Paupau Beach.

PONCE COROTAN

Tania Tan pedals uphill in San Roque on her way to the bike-run transition area at Paupau Beach.

PONCE COROTAN

Shawna Brennfleck runs back to the start/finish line of the sprints triathlon race.

PONCE COROTAN

Heather Taylor gestures as she does the five-kilometer leg of the triathlon event.

PONCE COROTAN

Joshua Abragan keeps a steady pace in the run leg of the triathlon race.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Young swimmers head out of the waters off Paupau Beach.

PONCE COROTAN

A race volunteer puts a mark on a swimmer in the 5 to 8 age group race.

PONCE COROTAN

Swimmers pose for a photo before starting the race in the waters off Paupau Beach.

Judge, Yanks pound Red Sox for 4-game sweep

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Brady signs 2-year, $70M extension with Pats

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Tennis in '21 Mini Games possible

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Sports Association and Pacific Games Council are open to the possibility of adding a couple more sports in the 2021 Pacific Mini Games, including tennis.

NMSA president Michael White, during its monthly meeting last Thursday at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, said if funding is available, tennis and ocean swim may be added to the initial six sports (athletics, baseball, badminton, beach volleyball, golf, and triathlon) lined up for the quadrennial event that the CNMI will be hosting two years from now. Pacific Games Council chief executive officer Andrew Minogue at the conclusion of the XVI Pacific Games in Samoa also expressed hopes of of having more sports in the 2021 Mini Games, including swimming and weightlifting, which were omitted from the earlier list.

Originally, the Commonwealth proposed 12 sports when it won the hosting rights for the Mini Games. However, with the CNMI having financial challenges in the aftermath of Super Typhoon Yutu and after repeated negotiations, it was agreed upon to bring the number down to six and cut the budget from $8 million to $3 million.

Unfortunately, tennis was not on the revised list. The announcement came just a few days before the Jeff Race-coached national tennis team won three gold medals and one silver in Samoa last month.

Race acknowledged it will be very challenging to add tennis on the list, but they will still try.

"We're going to work to see if we can get it back in, but I

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Robbie Schorr returns a shot to Jimin Woo during the 2019 White Coconut Tennis Classic at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Marianas High School's Logan Mister hits the ball near the net during their title game against Tinian in the 2018-2019 Public School System Boys High School Volleyball Tournament at the MHS Gymnasium last June.

Mister gets June honors

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

ATHLETES of the MONTH

Pacific Games participant Logan Mister was named the Tan Siu Lin Foundation/ Northern Marianas Sports Association Male Student Athlete of the Month for June.

Mister took the monthly honors after helping Marianas High School-1 topped the 2018-2019 Public School System Boys High School Volleyball Tournament. The late recognition was just announced last Thursday during the NMSA monthly meeting at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, as the group failed to convene in July—the same month CNMI athletes and officials

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Docomo noses out Mawati in OT

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Docomo Pacific quickly bounced back from its debut loss after edging Mawati in overtime, 66-64, during the second game in the 2019 One Pacific Promotional Basketball League last Thursday at the Civic Center Court in Susupe.

Shane Deleon Guerrero delivered for Docomo in the extension period, scoring 6 of the team's 9 points. Mel Manibusan and William Grow scored the 3 other markers for Docomo in overtime.

Deleon Guerrero finished the closely fought match with a game-high 24 points. Tony Diaz also finished in twin digits with his 18 markers, including 7 in the fourth period to help Docomo send the game into the extra frame.

Diaz's pair of triples in the third quarter and Jason Hayes' 5 straight points handed Docomo back the lead, 45-42, after Mawati forced a deadlock at the halftime break, 27-all.

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Docomo Pacific players and their muse pose for a photo during the opening ceremony for the Tsingtao Beer-sponsored 2019 One Pacific Promotional Basketball League last month at the Civic Center Court in Susupe.